



MC: KWEEN G

Renowned for potent content, Kween G delivers dynamic style as an MC, performer and Hip Hop artist. Kween G makes music that excites, entertains, and enlightens her listeners – often described as “consciousness-raising”. Her fighting spirit – for women’s rights and those in disadvantaged communities – courage and humility have earned her respect across the country. Actively involved in radio – it has been the perfect vehicle in honing Kween G’s presenting skills. Her over 15 years’ experience includes stints on Radio SkidRow and national broadcaster SBS Radio as a presenter and producer. Community work is another area that Kween is passionate about. Her efforts were rewarded by Marrickville Council voting her Young Citizen of the Year in 2010 – a prestigious award that honoured the essential community work that she frequently undertakes. Kween G regularly facilitates Hip Hop workshops across Australia including the award-winning “Lady Beats” - a music program for girls in Tennant Creek, NT, whereby participants learnt a range of music industry skills including recording, editing, performing and promotions.

SPEAKERS AND FACILITATORS

EDDIE ABD Eddie Abd produced the Mother’s Spice project. She is an artist and freelance designer, and has been a facilitator of community cultural development since 2009. Eddie has worked on a variety of projects throughout the Western Sydney region specifically engaging and facilitating art with disadvantaged communities.

SAFDAR AHMED Safdar Ahmed is a Sydney-based artist, academic and author of the Walkley award-winning web comic, Villawood: Notes from an immigration detention centre. Safdar is a founding member of the community art organisation, Refugee Art Project, for which he conducts regular workshops with asylum seekers and refugees in Western Sydney.

CARLOS AGAMEZ Carlos is a visual and installation artist born in Colombia. He started drawing and using different materials as expressions of art from an early age. Later he went to university and studied graphic design. After finishing university Carlos travelled to Europe for a cultural exchange. Once back to Colombia he received a scholarship granted by UNESCO to come to Australia to do an artist in residency and developed ‘A Little Piece of Heaven’ as a comparison between refugees in Australia and Internally Displaced People in Colombia. Currently the artwork is experiencing changes to research the theme of identity, and a common concept of home.

MOHANAD AL GHEZI Mohanad started painting when he was six as he was encouraged by his grandfather, who bought painting material for him. After graduating from the Arts & Carving Institute in Iraq, Mohanad moved to Syria where he kept painting, drawing and showing his works in several exhibitions. In Australia, Mohanad has showed his works at several events and community exhibitions. He specialises in drawing and oil painting, and his areas of interest include landscapes and human figures.

JAMAL A AL-HALLAQ Poet/performer, Jamal A Al-Hallaq is a leading Iraqi intellectual, poet and journalist published throughout Europe, USA and Middle East and who writes weekly for Panorama Newspaper, Sydney. His poetry collections in Arabic include: 1997 *Fireworks*; 2002 *Bedouins*, 2011 *Fire*. In 2012, his major critical work in 2 parts: *Readings in Forbidden History and Gods in the Kitchen* - essays on Islamic history, were published in Germany. Despite the work being banned in the Middle East, it is selling well on the streets of Baghdad! *Delaying the Pleasure* (California 2013), a collection of 25 articles *Art of Listening to Self* (Beirut Lebanon 2014) sold out in 2 weeks in Baghdad. Jamal was a leading artist on all stages of *Origin-Transit-Destination* since its first development in 2009. He was a mentor to the young artists joining the project for the presentation in 2015.

MOHAMMED ALANEZI Mohammed is a multi-disciplinary artist working in the areas of photography, performance and graphic design. Mohammed lived in Iraq where he obtained a degree in theatre

performance from Basra's College of Arts. In Baghdad, he had his own studio and appeared in a number of productions as well as radio plays. Mohammed's photographs have been exhibited widely throughout Iraq. Since his arrival in Australia in 2013, Mohammed has been involved in various projects, festivals and exhibitions. Highlights of his work in Sydney include: a short film that he co-directed, *The Suffering of the Asylum Seeker*, aired at festivals in Sydney; art and photography exhibitions with SSI; performance in 'Origin, Transit and Destination' with Australian Performance Exchange; theatre projects with the Iraqi community; photography exhibition for Sydney Writers' Festival; and performance in 'Little Baghdad', an immersive experience held at Powerhouse Youth Theatre. He joined the cast of the Australian feature film 'Ali's Wedding', directed by Jeffrey Walker, soon to be released in cinemas.

EIMAN AL UBUDY

Eiman is a Sydney-based artist of Iraqi background. She migrated to Australia at the age of two, and graduated with a Bachelor of Creative Arts with a Major in Visual Arts from the University of Wollongong. Eiman is passionate about and devoted to both art and spoken word poetry. She has displayed her creative work at the Annual Art Exhibition at Club Marconi, The Bryan Brown Theatre, M2 Gallery, Bankstown Arts Centre, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and Fairfield Museum and Gallery. She is also Thrive Program Support Worker at the Lebanese Muslim Association. Thrive is a Youth Transition Support Program, funded by the Department of Social Services, which aims to offer services to newly arrived refugee youth in Australia, in the areas of education, employment, social inclusion and vocational training.

DAMON AMB

Damon began his photographic journey more than 20 years ago with his father's old Konica camera in Iran. He started experimenting by taking images of nature, people and his surroundings. Damon became interested in the details of objects and became drawn to abstract photography over time. He has since developed a distinctive style of work using photography and digital art. He has completed an Advance Diploma in Photography (2004-2007) in Iran. He has also completed studies in Photography Criticism (Theory) at the Mahe Mehr Art & Cultural Institute under acclaimed tutor Hamid Severi. Damon was employed as a full-time photographer in, Tehran until he made his journey to Australia. Damon has exhibited extensively in Iran and now in Australia. He was selected to participate in Head On 2016 and was a finalist in the Home and Art Prize Exhibition from City of Dandenong, Victoria.

BINOWEE BAYLES

Binowee Bayles is a proud Aboriginal woman born on Gadigal land in Redfern, Sydney. A descendant of the Wonnarua and Bundjalung Nations of NSW and the Birri Gubba and Kungalu Nations of QLD. Binowee has been sharing her culture and performing traditional songs and dances from the age of 6, traveling around Australia and internationally whilst maintaining strong cultural ties to the many Aboriginal Communities she is connected to. In 2010 she was the Indigenous Australian Representative for the United Nations Assembly on Climate Change in the Philippines and worked as an Aboriginal Programming Manager at Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. She is Heartdancers' Aboriginal Cultural Advisor, Business Development, Facilitator and Performer.

MIRIAM CABELLO

Miriam Cabello established MLC Powerhouse Design Studio in 1993 & launched MLC Gallery in 2004. Miriam Cabello's art and artistic practice are emblematic of cross-cultural understanding and respect for human rights. Cabello's oil paintings emerge from these themes and are exquisitely realised in her iconic bodies of work: *White Rope*, *The Pugilist Passion*, and *The first September 11-The Chilean Military Coup*. Cabello has been acknowledged nationally and internationally with over 25 awards for her contribution to art, education, and cross-cultural engagement. Some of her career highlights include being the first Australian selected by the Vatican to exhibit during the 2008 World Youth Day festival and consecutive finalist at the National Art Museum of Sport. The inaugural painting *White Rope I* was awarded at the Florence Biennial of Contemporary Art, Italy. Miriam recently won the EOI to revitalize the Newtown School of Arts. The inaugural exhibition *Layering Black* coincides with the #BlackLivesMatter event at the Sydney Opera House.

TIM CARROLL

Tim Carroll has been running the Arts and Cultural program at Bankstown Youth Development Services BYDS since June 1991. Tim has initiated and brought to a public outcome over 350 projects with communities in Bankstown since that time across all genres of arts practice with an emphasis on projects with young people. BYDS currently runs projects across domestic violence education with young men and boys, 4ELEMENTS Hip Hop and the Bankstown Poetry Slam.

KATE CLARKSON

Kate has been teaching Drama, Music and ESL to newly arrived refugee and migrant teenagers for 17 years in SW Sydney. She is a passionate advocate for arts education. Kate

has been involved continuously in small and larger scale arts education projects for young people that promoted understandings of peace, anti-bullying and anti-racism and worked to provide heightened senses of identity, well-being, connectedness and belonging through collaborative, intercultural expressive arts projects. She is currently working also for the Learning and Teaching Directorate, Equity (Multicultural Education) NSW Department of Education – assessing, re-shaping and then creating and delivering teacher professional learning around an innovative drama and peer-teaching program called Cooling Conflicts – in order to combat in particular anti-racial bullying, and empower all students to understand and manage conflict in schools and celebrate inter-cultural exchange.

**ANNEMAREE
DALZIEL**

Annemaree Dalziel, Artistic Associate with Australian Performance Exchange (2013-present), is an interdisciplinary artist whose collaborative and intercultural community engaged practice extends across performance making design, dramaturgy, curating, creative producing, community cultural development and visual art. From 2008-2013 she curated the Contemporary Theatre program at Campbelltown Arts Centre, programming, commissioning and producing award winning new works (including *The Riot Act*, 2008-9, *Hole in the Wall* 2009-11). Since 1983 she has worked to research, co-devise and realise new contemporary performances, notably with APE, Stalker Theatre, Powerhouse Youth Theatre, The Opera Project and regionally based Lingua Franca, for diverse venues and sites. As Arts and Culture Planner for Wingecarribee Shire Council, she led and produced their award winning *RoadKill* youth music road safety project. Recent collaborations include roles as Creative Producer/designer for activist mobile performance work with asylum seekers, *Origin-Transit-Destination* (2014-5) as designer for *Switch*, *Clique*, *Unsustainable Behaviour* with Lingua Franca (Bathurst and Cowra) and artist leading a new public artwork creation for *Blacktown Confessional* (Blacktown Arts Centre). Her ongoing work with Stalker Theatre (1995-2016) includes costume creation for internationally touring works *Perregrine*, *The 4 Riders & Red*, *Mirror Mirror*, *Encoded* and *Creature*.

YAMANE FAYED

Yamane Fayed is an experienced trilingual educator and facilitator of digital and traditional storytelling workshops for diverse groups; and has worked as an educator in multicultural playgroups and a librarian with a focus on facilitating storytelling and story extension programs for children. Yamane has worked on a number of projects with I.C.E. including the *Family Creative Hub*, *Mother's Spice* and *Lullaby in a Far Away Land* projects.

ARUNA GANDHI

Specialising in the Indian-classical dance style of Bharatanatyam, Aruna Gandhi is a performing artiste, choreographer and educator, based in Sydney, NSW. Internationally recognised for her outstanding merit and contribution in the field of arts, she is a recipient of the 'Distinguished Talent Visa' in Australia (2013). Aruna presents solos in Bharatanatyam, collaborates with artistes for cross-form arts projects and is the Founder-Director of 'Silambam-Sydney', an institution for fine arts. A qualified community arts and cultural development practitioner, she is actively engaged in various community arts partnerships.

GUIDO GONZALEZ

Guido is CuriousWorks Filmmaker & Cultural Leader. Guido has made several CuriousWorks films since joining the company in 2010, including co-writing and co-directing their first feature, *Riz*, which premiered at the 2015 Sydney Film Festival. He is also integral to their grassroots program, acting as a Cultural Leader and mentor to their developing artists known as the Curious Creators. Guido was born in Chile and moved to Australia as a child refugee, settling in Cabramatta with his family. He got his first film break as camera assistant in 2002, and came to CuriousWorks with a dream to tell the stories of Western Sydney. His directorial debut was the documentary *Villawood Mums*, which compared the support and freedom his family received at the 'hostel for refugees' with the harsh and less humane experience for families at the same 'detention centre' 10 years later.

KATIE GREEN

Katie is a community development worker and law graduate that has worked extensively with newly arrived asylum seeker communities. Katie works collaboratively with these communities to produce verbatim stories that share individual perspectives on seeking asylum and combat the dominant political narratives. In 2015 Katie directed and produced *If You Come To Australia*, a theatre work for the Sydney Fringe Festival. In 2016 she presented *Letters for safARI*, a project that encouraged asylum seekers and festival participants to directly engage with each other through the act of writing letters. Katie is currently working as a writer and performer for *Tribunal*, a new theatre work which will premiere at Griffin Theatre in August 2016.

MOJGAN HABIBI

Mojgan Habibi is an Iranian Australian Artist and researcher, she has completed her Master of Fine Art at RMIT in 2012 and is currently undertaking PhD research at the University of Newcastle. Mojgan's art is based on ceramic and sculpture with a strong focus on skill and

experience. She has been the winner of “Chapel on Station” competition. She has got a “MDA Award” for Outstanding Practitioner in Ceramics from Box Hill TAFE, Melbourne and “Commended sculpture for Newcastle emerging artist prize” from Newcastle Art Space, Newcastle. Mojgan has been a finalist in several sculpture and ceramic exhibitions such a “The Blake, Online Directors Cut Exhibition”, Clune’s ceramic award (VIC), Sculpture in the Vineyard (NSW), Toyota (VIC), Chapel on Station (VIC) and University of Newcastle gallery student Acquisitive prize (NSW).

ANNETTE JANIC

Annette Janic has worked as a television production and program acquisitions professional in genres ranging from live sport to documentaries, game shows, lifestyle and reality, while travelling extensively and living in Australia, Singapore, Dubai and India. She is a first generation Australian with parents and an older brother who arrived as refugees following World War II.

GUO JIAN

Guo Jian grew up during the Culture Revolution in Gui zhou, southwest of China where he taught himself to paint by copy propaganda posters. After graduating high school he became a truck driver in 1978 and later joined the army during the war between China and Vietnam. He became a soldier and propaganda artist. His time in the army would later serve as fertile source material for his artwork. After leaving the army, Guo Jian enrolled in the National Minorities “Minzu” University and studied art in Beijing during China’s “85 New Wave” art movement period. His perspective turned a full 180 degrees as a result of the horrors that he and his classmates witnessed on the streets of Beijing in June 1989. Guo Jian arrived in Australia in 1992. After arriving in Sydney, he took up labouring jobs to finance himself and painted at night. After showing his work at The Tin Shed Gallery in 1998, his artwork gained the attention of curators and critics. Guo Jian returned to China in 2005 to Songzhuang, an art colony East of Beijing. In 2014, he was interviewed by The Financial Times about his art and his diorama on the 25th anniversary of the Tianianmen Square massacre. He was then arrested by Chinese authorities citing “visa issues”. Amnesty International has said Guo Jian had become victim of the Chinese authorities’ “merciless campaign of repression” in the lead-up to the Tianianmen anniversary, and was subsequently deported back to Sydney.

NADINE KOROLEVA

Nadine is an emerging artist working across still and moving image. She is undertaking her postgraduate degree in Curating at UNSW. Nadine is also an Intern in the Conservation Department at the Art Gallery of NSW. Nadine is a finalist of Home and Art Prize from City of Dandenong, Victoria. Currently, she is producing a multimedia social art project *Stories about Hope*.

FRANCES LARDER

Frances Larder was born in Bandung, Netherlands East Indies as it was then called in 1937. She arrived in Australia 1950, aged 14. She had most of her secondary and all her tertiary education in Australia. In 1957 she joined the Australian Navy. After leaving the Navy she undertook a BA at City Art Institute, Sydney, N.S.W. She also gained several Diplomas in the Visual Arts from Meadowbank TAFE, and East Sydney TECH., N.S.W. Over the years she also conducted numerous workshops in visual art. She conceptualized and coordinated both the “Odyssey Project, and “Echoes from the Past”, these exhibitions reflect the Dutch migration experience. She has from 2000 been an active board member of the Dutch Australian Community Centre, based in Smithfield, NSW. In addition she has participated in numerous solo and group exhibitions in both Australia and the USA. Her artworks are in private collections in Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium and the USA.

CATHERINE MAGUIRE-DONVITO and RUTH HARTCHER-O'BRIEN (joint biography)

Ruth and Catherine are passionate about giving “The Refugee Experience” a genuine and empathic face. The resilient young refugees, with whom they work, offer their life’s stories with open-hearted grace. Ruth and Catherine feel thus privileged with the task of finding a ways to give these stories voice and audience. Both women long for all Australians to hear these kids. They yearn for affluent and safe Australians of every colour to feel these stories. They crave other kids of all backgrounds to connect these (genuine!) vibrant faces with the word “refugee”. And so in 2011 “The Tree of Life Project” and later “The Suitcase Project” both trauma recovery projects, were born, with Treehouse Theatre as their formal vehicle. In 2016, Ruth and Catherine may have a few more grey hairs but are still going strong. They have forged strong relationships with theatres across Sydney, with yearly performances of “Tree of Life” at the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and The Concourse Chatswood and biannual performances of “Suitcase Stories” at The Seymour Centre and debuting in October at the Joan Sutherland Centre, in Penrith. Ruth and Catherine are old friends, having met in their work with young refugees, Catherine as a Psychologist and School Counsellor, and Ruth as a Drama and English as a Second Language teacher. Both love theatre, and believe in the power of stories to enliven and transform, and in the “tangled magics” (Tim Winton in an ABC interview) of live theatre to take us inside the experience of the teller.

- HERLINA MASSING** Herlina is an educator at Fairfield Intensive English Centre (IEC). She teaches English and Drama to newly arrived non English speaking refugees, migrants and international students of secondary school age. She coordinates the Art Partnership in Education Program, organising workshops and working alongside visiting artists, aimed at involving students in drama, movie-making and performing arts projects.
- ANDY MILLER** Andy Miller is General Manager at Multicultural Arts Victoria (MAV). He has worked in senior roles at Creative Victoria, Arts Victoria, Creative Partnerships Australia and as an Arts and Cultural Officer in two local governments (Yarra and Wyndham). Andy initially trained as a painter at the Canberra School of Art, has worked in theatre and has established a range of arts and cultural programs in the community sector. He holds a Bachelor in Fine Arts, a Masters in Public Policy and a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management from the University of Melbourne.
- SANDRA MORALES** Sandra is the Executive Director of Heartdancers. She has been dancing and performing since early childhood; her strong passion for discovering and promoting traditional dances has led her to combine many styles of dance with live music and spiritual practices such as Yoga, Latiham, Tai Chi, Kalari in a class called Heartdance yoga. In 2014 she went to the sacred mountains of the Himalayas to further continue with her yoga and ancient wisdom studies, undertaking an advanced 500 hours yoga teacher training and sound healing course. Sandra has worked in a wide range of charitable projects in Australia and South America over the last 8 years. Previous to that, Sandra worked as an Administration & Finance Manager, managing projects for a multi national corporation across Australia, Singapore, Chile and Colombia.
- ALI MOUSAWI** Ali Mousawi is a filmmaker and photojournalist newly arrived from Ahwaz (Iran). Ali was the First Assistant Director for the feature 'Revawathaye Natamam' and Cinematographer for the feature 'Qalamranj'. He made three documentaries in Ahwaz before directing 'Man in the Mirror' which premiered in the Arab Film Festival. 'Man in the Mirror' is Ali's first foray into documentary filmmaking in Australia, as part of the ParraDocs project by Information & Cultural Exchange. He has over 14 years' experience working for a variety of news agencies, including: Main Photographer for Fars News Agency (Ahwaz/Tehran) from 2011 to 2013, Group Manager and Photographer for Ahwaz News Agency and Editor in Chief and Photographer at Bejwak Newspaper in 2012. Ali won first prize in Photography at the City and Media Festival, Ahwaz, 2010, and first prize in the Festival of Journalism in Bandarabas (Southern Iran) from 2008 to 2011.
- HUSSEIN NABEEL** Hussein is an Iraqi-Australian, born in Pakistan, who utilizes art for self-expression and therapy. His family moved around a lot when he was young and art contributed to forming his identity; it helped connect his cultural heritage with the experiences he encountered. Hussein's travels are reflected through his art. He uses ink and pen since they are mobile artistic tools and can be used anywhere and on nearly anything. As he travelled on planes and trains Hussein would draw and then reflect on the art he produced. Hussein graduated with a bachelors of psychology from Macquarie university and has a certificate in community and cultural development,. Hussein is working for the Lebanese Muslim Association's Thrive team, as youth transitional support worker for young refugees, supporting them in their transition into the Australian society.
- LENA NAHLOUS** Lena Nahlous is the Executive Director of Kultour, a national peak organisation dedicated to advancing cultural diversity in the arts. She was formerly Executive Director of Information and Cultural Exchange (ICE) and has over 20 years' experience in arts, cultural and media organisations. She has managed screen and digital media-based initiatives that have engaged thousands of people, particularly women, refugees, migrants and young people. Under Lena's leadership ICE grew ten-fold financially and in terms of projects and scope. She established Artfiles, an employment and engagement program for Western Sydney artists, the Switch Digital Arts Centre and was a co-founder of the Arab Film Festival. She was a recipient of an Asialink Arts Fellowship to Hong Kong and completed the Asialink Leadership program. She sat on the NSW Government Arts Advisory Committee, participated in the Australia 2020 Summit, was a finalist in the CEO of the Year Awards, and was named as one of Sydney's 100 Creative Catalysts by Creative Sydney.
- CAITLIN NEWTON-BROAD** Caitlin is CuriousWorks Community Director. Caitlin is a creative producer with an ongoing commitment to community cultural development, artistic adventure and access to the arts for everyone. She has worked across Australia, Europe and Asia supporting artwork that innovates in the public realm. She has worked for Blast Theory (UK), PACT, Urban Theatre

Projects, Belvoir – Company B and Performance Space (AUS). She has an ongoing interest in innovative arts in education programs, including UK and Australian models. From 2011 to 2014 she was Co-Artistic Director at Shopfront Contemporary Arts, an arts co-operative owned by young people in suburban Sydney.

Caitlin supports local artists to tell stories of Western Sydney through film, performance, installation and writing and is also responsible for the CuriousWorks grassroots program.

JIVA PARTHIPAN

Jiva Parthipan is a director, creative producer and arts/cultural worker based in Sydney and working internationally with theatre, dance, performance, film and inter-disciplinary art. His work has been seen the U.K. at Tate Modern, ICA, Saddlers Wells, National Review of Live Arts, IETM- Paris and Dublin, Bone Festival, Switzerland various festivals in Weden, Norway, Netherlands and South Africa. He was an associate lecturer in Performance at Central St Martin College for the Arts, London. Jiva was the first male dance dancer to dance with Shobana Jeyasigh dance company which recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. A personal and artistic profile of Jiva was published by Penguin Australia in A COUNTRY TOO FAR - a collection of essays on Australian's with backgrounds as asylum seekers, written by Fiona Mc Gregor and edited by booker prize winning Australian author Tom Kenneally. Jiva currently works as an Arts and Cultural development worker at STARTTS – a refugee agency in Sydney, initiating, developing and presenting arts and cultural activities with refugees in their own community settings, in partnership with Australian cultural institutions. Recent theatre projects include; LITTTLE BADGHDAD – with Powerhouse Youth Theatre and the Australian Museum, Baulkham Hills African Ladies Troupe in association with Racing Pulse & Belvoir Street Theatre and Riverside Theatre. Opera Australia's community choirs program - at the Sydney Opera House, Dance Africa Dance annual show and LET IT BE choral project, both at Riverside Theatres in Sydney. In October 2016, STARTTS will work with MCA and Powerhouse Youth Theatre to produce a major public art event – WOMEN OF FAIRFIELD.

SHEILA PHAM

Sheila Pham is the 'State of Mind' Project Manager at Sydney Story Factory, overseeing a statewide writing project focused on teenagers. She is also a writer, radio producer and public health professional with extensive experience working in western Sydney. Sheila was awarded a 2015 CAL WestWords Western Sydney Emerging Writer Fellowship and her work has appeared in publications including New Philosopher, Griffith Review and The Big Issue. Her monologue, These People, was staged in February 2015 by Apocalypse Theatre for its asylum season, and her radio play, The Lonely Planet Guide to New Delhi, was performed at the Sydney Fringe Festival 2012. In her current role at Sydney Story Factory she regularly interacts with young writers from a wide range of backgrounds. This follows on from her work with adult writers from refugee and migrant backgrounds, including Vietnamese-Australian writers for Forty Years On (30 April 2015) and emerging African-Australian writers for The Africultures Story Hour earlier this year. Sheila has had several stints at the ABC, including ABC International as a digital producer and ABC Radio, where she was an online editor and radio producer. She is currently producing a program for ABC RN's Earshot, capturing the history of a lost cinema in Vietnam.

TINA POSUNKINA

Tina Posunkina is currently a member of the Doctoral Program at the Institute for Social Justice. Her research is focused upon the lived experiences of queer refugee women, viewed through the lens of Trauma Theory. Posunkina brings a diverse human rights background, previously working in the areas of HIV prevention, LGBTIQ rights and currently with people seeking asylum. She currently works at the Refugee Advice & Casework Service, the longest running refugee community legal centre in NSW. Besides, Tina is a communications manager and a project participant at the social art project Stories About Hope - a multimedia exhibition and a book that celebrates dignity and strength of people from refugee backgrounds.

LILLIAN RODRIGUES-PANG

Lillian can only be described as a dramatic, involved and passionate storyteller. She will create worlds and journeys and characters that take over your imagination and win your heart. Lillian tells stories in English and uses a range of languages and instruments to honour the country of origin, so be prepared to clap, dance, sing, creep and enjoy. Join her and share in the beauty of storytelling at its best. Lilli has travelled Australia and the world performing including at The Opera House, Dreaming Festival, in Peru, Colombia, Singapore and many other stages. When the stage lights aren't on she is working consistently with community. Past projects include – bilingual storytelling programs in primary schools, Kids Making Choices – a storytelling program for kids at risk, My Story to the Stage at intensive language centres and storytelling for new parents. The projects she is currently engaged with are regular storytelling sessions at a mental health day recovery centre, regular storytelling sessions with recently arrived refugee families and facilitating Indigenous story gathering and

sharing in the Illawarra. Lillian has a degree in Economics (ANU) a degree in Arts (Political Science (ANU) – like all good storytellers. She also has her masters of TESOL (UOW).

PENNY RYAN

Penny Ryan is currently studying for a MFA in ceramics at the National Art School Sydney, having graduated with a BFA in 2015. She was a finalist in the Chippendale New World Art Prize (2016) and was commended in the Hidden Rookwood Sculpture Walk (2015). Her works are in the National Art School Archive collection and private collections in Australia and USA. Penny has been a long-term activist for social justice and is committed to practicing socially engaged art.

S. SHAKTHIDHARAN

S. Shakthidharan is CuriousWorks Executive & Artistic Director. Shakthi founded CuriousWorks a decade ago to deliver a series of creative initiatives that have had sustainable and innovative outcomes for all Australians. He based the company on a best-practice model for using digital media in a positive, lasting manner to empower marginalised communities to tell their own stories. This led to long-term community projects in Western Sydney, remote Western Australia and outer Melbourne. Shakthi won the 2011 Australia Council's Kirk Robson Award, given to young artists showing leadership in community arts and cultural development. From 2013-2015, he was the inaugural Associate Artist at Carriageworks. In 2016, he launched *Colony*, an ambitious 'grand narrative' of numerous artistic productions telling stories from Western Sydney's past, present and future. Shakthi also writes and produces his own music under the moniker Kurinji, the music of which features particularly in *When the Tide Comes In*, *The Lanka Project* and *Riz*.

JEREMY SMITH

Jeremy studied Lighting Design at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, graduating in 1997. After initially starting in the technical production field, Jeremy transitioned to programme management of community-based arts and cultural programs in 2001, following a stint at the Vancouver International Children's Festival in Canada (assisted by a fellowship from ArtsWA). On his return to WA, Jeremy assumed the role of programme manager of the Creative Challenge, a regional arts residency programme for children & young people, with AWESOME Arts Australia. In 2003, Jeremy commenced work at the WA Department of Culture and the Arts (DCA) as Project Officer, Community and Regional Arts Development – continuing his regional and community arts focus across Western Australia, assisting regional and metropolitan-based artists and organisations – including those working with culturally diverse communities - secure funding and support from DCA. Jeremy held several positions at DCA – including Manager, Resources and Senior Project Officer, Organisations and Contracts. Between July 2008 and April 2010, Jeremy worked at DADAA Inc, in a dual role - Manager, Regional Arts & Health and Manager, Strategic Projects. For more than five years, he served on the Australia Council for the Arts' Community Partnerships Committee. In 2010, Jeremy commenced with Rio Tinto in Perth as Senior Advisor, Community Investment – working across the company's business units in Western Australia. He managed state-wide partnerships for Rio Tinto across key areas of education, the environment, culture and health. In November 2014 for the following 18-months, he took accountability of the Manager, Community Investment position in addition to substantive duties. In March 2016, Jeremy left Rio Tinto and moved to Sydney and commenced a new role with the Australia Council for the Arts, Arts Practice Director - Community, Emerging & Experimental Arts.

SALLY SUSSMAN

Sally Sussman is a director, performance-maker and producer. She is Artistic Director of Australian Performance Exchange (APE), established in 2007, to create intercultural performance projects with artists nationally and internationally. Sally trained as a performer in traditional Chinese theatre and percussion at The Central Academy of Drama, Beijing and the Shanghai Conservatorium of Music (1984-7). In 1996 she received the Rex Cramphorn Performing Arts Award to study at New York University and work as assistant director to John McGrath's Motherlode at Mabou Mines, where she was Resident Artist the following year, directing her work on the construction of cultural identities, Mutations. She has created works with artists from China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Fiji, India and most recently Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, including Orientalia with Chinese Opera artists and contemporary performers at The Performance Space (1997), SPEEDCITY a large-scale automotive event, for This Is Not Art Festival, Newcastle for cars, video and auto sound systems (2004), The Eyes of Marege with Teater Kita Makassar and Aboriginal artists (2007) presented at the inaugural OZAsia Festival and the Studio at the Sydney Opera House, Origin-Transit-Destination with asylum-seeker and refugee artists at Casula Powerhouse Arts (2015) Centre, Mother's Spice, a work devised with four migrant women celebrating the role of food and cooking in triggering storytelling and memory, ICE (2016).

OMID TOFIGHIAN

Dr Omid Tofighian is a lecturer, researcher and community advocate, combining philosophy

with interests in rhetoric, religion, popular culture, transnationalism, displacement and discrimination. He completed his PhD in Philosophy at Leiden University, the Netherlands, and graduated with a combined honours degree in Philosophy and Studies in Religion at the University of Sydney. Omid has lived variously in the UAE where he taught at Abu Dhabi University; Belgium where he was a visiting scholar at K.U. Leuven; the Netherlands for his PhD; and intermittent periods in Iran for research. His current roles include Lecturer in Rhetoric and Composition for the Writing Hub and Honorary Research Associate for the Department of Philosophy at the University of Sydney; faculty at Iran Academia; board member for Powerhouse Youth Theatre; campaign manager for Why Is My Curriculum White? - Australasia; and Project Executive for the Religion, State and Society Research Network. He contributes to community arts and cultural projects and works with asylum seekers, refugees and young people from Western Sydney. He has published numerous book chapters and journal articles and is author of *Myth and Philosophy in Platonic Dialogues* (Palgrave 2016).

SABA VASEFI

Saba Vasefi, feminist filmmaker, poet & Asylum Seekers Centre Ambassador. She is the recipient of a Premier's Multicultural Community Medal -Arts and Culture- plus an Edna Ryan Award for making a significant contribution to feminism. Saba is a creative director of the Bridge for Asylum Seekers Foundation and the Director of International Women's Poetry & Art Festival. Her master's thesis in Feminist Literary Criticism received the highest grade possible & at the age of 24 she became one of the youngest lecturers at the prestigious Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran. She was expelled from the university after 4 years of teaching due to her activist activities against capital punishment. She worked as a journalist for the International Campaign for Human Rights and was twice a judge of Book Prize for the Best Book on Women's Literature. She holds a postgraduate degree in Documentary from the Australian Film Television and Radio School and is currently working on her thesis on Feminist Cinema. Saba has made documentaries such as 'Don't Bury My Heart', 'Symphony of Strange Water', and 'Beyond the Father's Shadow. Her films have been screened at the UN, BBC, Voice of America, UCLA and various film festivals and universities around the world.

MOUNA ZAYLAH

Mouna Zaylah is a cultural producer and arts manager. She has over 22 years experience in the community arts and cultural development sector and has worked for I.C.E. (1999-2016), Urban Theatre Projects (1992-1997) and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre (1997-1999). She is currently Development Officer for Campbelltown Arts Centre.