

Next Wave 2018

Festival Report



“I could not be more proud of this Festival, and of everyone who contributed to making it happen. After 34 years Next Wave is still breaking new ground, and it’s through the extraordinary integrity, vision and dedication of artists that Next Wave Festival 2018 was such a resounding success, with critics and audiences alike.”

— Georgie Meagher, Next Wave Director/CEO

Next Wave is grateful to the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung peoples of the Kulin nation on whose unceded country our festival takes place. We extend our deepest respects to all Elders: past, present and emerging. For more than 60,000 years, generations of Kulin peoples have carried a cultural and creative continuum which is intimately connected to the people, lands and waters of Melbourne. It is with this spirit we gather to dance, talk, sing, write, share and celebrate in this place that always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



Alex Tate and Olivia Tartaglia, *Bureau of Meteoranxiety*. Photo: Snehargho Ghosh.

Next Wave 2018 was the most rewardingly diverse the festival has ever been; a sharp rebuke to the top-down culture that attempts to divide the arts into two categories of “excellence” and “accessibility”.

— John Bailey, *The Age*



339

Artists

47

Projects

651

Performances

205k+

Estimated attendance

100%

New work

20%

Increase in tickets sold

75%

of sessions sold-out

76%

of audiences attended multiple works

Never say never at Next Wave.

— Cameron Woodhead, *The Age*

As Australia's pre-eminent festival for emerging artists, Next Wave Festival 2018 brought the most exciting new artists from across the country together, to launch the careers of the next generation in Australian art.

Making space for new conversations, dissolving artform boundaries, and setting new standards for inclusion in the arts, the works in this year's Festival revealed multi-faceted perspectives of a world in crisis; offering reflection, rage and release in response. *Ritual*, our

major project, unfurled across multiple sites as artists invited audiences to participate in a shared experience each sunset of the Festival.

The third successive Festival to see significant increases in tickets sold, swathes of sold-out events and increasingly culturally diverse audiences – Next Wave's curatorial commitment to high quality work by emerging artists and rigorous national research strongly resonates with audiences who love discovering new art and artists.

We travelled from Sydney to see the performance and we thought it was awesome. We absolutely loved that it was so unusual and daring. We want to see more work like this.
— Audience feedback

Kickstart Helix

In 2017, Kickstart Helix, Next Wave's reimagined learning program, was launched. Bringing artists, writers, curators and producers together in an intersecting program of creative and professional development, the program saw 14 projects grown from the seed of an idea right through to fruition at Next Wave Festival 2018.

2018 Participants:

Alex Tate and Olivia Tartaglia, Athena Thebus, Azja Kulplinska and Timmah Ball, Brendan Snow, Danielle Reynolds, Embittered Swish, Harrison Ritchie-Jones, Adam Ridgeway and Josh Muir, Lady Producer Gang, Luke Duncan King, Rhen Soggee, Rosie Isaac, Sancintya Mohini Simpson, Shireen Taweel, Taree Sansbury, Zachary Pidd and Charles Purcell and Zara Sigglekow.

Next Wave was crucial in strengthening my resolve to continue an artistic career and gave me the skills and support I needed at a timely point... giving me the confidence to tackle an extremely ambitious project that would not have been realised without Next Wave's support.
— Kickstart Helix 2018 Artist

Next Wave X

Defined by immersive experiences and works in unusual spaces, Next Wave X, our new major program, saw seven ambitious new works by early-career artists and curators co-commissioned with eight partner organisations across Australia. From a take-over of iconic Melbourne live music venue The Tote (precog, curated by Sezzo Snot and Makeda Zucco), to an unpredictable, and political 5-course meal (Crunch Time by Counterpilot), these projects will be presented with interstate partners across 2019.

2018 Artists

Amelia Winata (co-commission with West Space), Counterpilot (co-commission with Metro Arts), Ellen Davies and Alice Heyward (co-commission with Dancehouse), Elyas Alavi (co-commission with ACE Open and Firstdraft), Joshua Pether (co-commission with PICA) and Sezzo Snot and Makeda Zucco (co-commission with Liquid Architecture).

Thank you for supporting emerging artists to take risks, providing a platform for their work and providing Australia with an inclusive, representative program of events, artists, performances and experiences!
— Audience feedback

Brunswick Mechanics Institute

In 2017 Next Wave commenced management of Brunswick Mechanics Institute in partnership with Moreland City Council, with the aim of creating more space for artist development and community celebration in Brunswick. Many Next Wave Festival artists developed their projects through residencies at Mechanics, and the venue hosted our epic Opening Party, special alumni project Endless Romantica by Field Theory, good time block party BARRIO//BARYO SOUND SYSTEM by Caroline Garcia and Lucrecia Quintanilla and seasons of performance by Harrison and Jen Ritchie-Jones, and performance collective Embittered Swish.

Ritual

Setting the rhythm to the movement of the earth, Ritual invited artists and audiences to come together at sunset each day of the Festival. In locations across Melbourne, revealed only on the morning of each event, artists made offerings and created shared experiences exploring friendship, family, culture, gender and property development. Curated by Erica McCalman.

Artists:

Uncle Bill Nicholson and the Djirri Djirri Dance Group, Phuong Ngo, Field Theory, Sancintya Mohini Simpson, Sista Zai Zanda, Joel Bray, Jamie Lewis, Rebecca Jensen and Sarah Aiken, Jai Leeworthy, Katie West, Carly Sheppard, Leuli Eshraghi, Shireen Taweel, Dan Koop, Harriet Gillies, Caroline Garcia and Lucrecia Quintanilla.

This is the kind of work that Next Wave is for: the kind of work that makes you think: I haven't seen anything like this before.

— Alison Croggon, Witness Performance

Embittered Swish, *Estrogenesis*. Photo: Sarah Walker.





Alice Heyward and Ellen Davies, *Future City Inflatable*. Photo: Snehargho Ghosh.



Zak Pidd and Charles Purcell, *Apokalypsis*. Photo: Sarah Walker.

It's given me strength in knowing safe spaces can exist in the arts: this group from the outset has been facilitated in a way that people came together with that intention and continued in commitment to make sure it stays that way.

— Next Wave Festival 2018 Artist

PROGRAM DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

In 2018, Next Wave continued the push to set a new standard for culturally diverse and inclusive programming. Showcasing a diverse range of voices, removing barriers for participation, and seeding access service integration as a creative opportunity, our learning-centred approach to development and delivery is future-focused: giving artists the tools they need to lead the way toward a more inclusive and sustainable future.

As an artist, the focus that Next Wave placed on sustainability, access and First Nations sovereignty had a profound impact on how I think about my work and practice.
— Next Wave Festival 2018 Artist

As a Deaf artist, I never felt as much warm welcome and being inclusive from the beginning at the Kickstart Helix program workshops, Next Wave meetings and working closely with the Next Wave Associate Producer. They showed their full commitment to provide the support (accessibility) without any hesitation and stay true to their philosophy.
— Next Wave Festival 2018 Artist

20% 44% 68%

of projects were led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists

of artists identified as culturally and linguistically diverse

of projects were led by women and non-binary people

Timmah Ball and Azja Kulpińska, *Wild Tongue Vol 2*. Photo: Sarah Walker.



Artists & Inclusion

90% 100% 100%

of artists actively removed barriers to access or implemented access services for their Next Wave Festival work

of artists agreed that participating in the Festival gave them a greater understanding of inclusivity and access

of artists said they were likely to offer access services again for their work in the future

Learning about access and how to integrate it into the work from inception meant I could make realistic, exciting and creative decisions pertaining to accessibility. I have learned so much and most importantly, have learned how exciting and vital it is to incorporate access within the body of the work - for me creatively it helped solve creative binds and I feel cracked open my work to richer possibilities.
— Next Wave Festival 2018 Artist

What I learned was including simple things like [ensuring wheelchair accessibility, offering Auslan interpreted sessions, captioning video content] is not hard, it shouldn't be seen as difficult or an expense. It's necessary and can be included into the process from the very beginning and I know how to do that now and how to get advice or assistance to do it the right way.
— Next Wave Festival 2018 Artist

Artists & Sustainability

86% 77%

of artists applied environmentally sustainable principles and measures to the development and presentation of their project

of artists said they were likely to employ environmentally sustainable principles and measures to their work in the future

The biggest element of our project was looking at waste culture and how all the materials for the show could be either sourced second-hand or properly re-purposed or recycled after the performance. This is a glaringly huge element of performance that feels hard to ignore once it is pointed out to you and I can't imagine not applying this waste-free philosophy to all future works.
— Next Wave Festival 2018 Artist

Our environmental considerations ranged from small decisions (not printing programs) to fairly large ones (only using recycled or used materials and objects for our set - something we didn't quite achieve but came very close to)... We've learned a lot and will continue to build on these findings and incorporate them into our practices going forward.
— Next Wave Festival 2018 Artist

AUDIENCES

Next Wave audiences have a hunger for bold, urgent and reflective work by emerging artists, and in 2018 they turned out in droves to immerse themselves in the Festival. They are highly engaged, likely to attend multiple works and concentrated in Melbourne's inner North and West.

I love how you live and breathe your vision and beliefs (among many other things, I loved how the program guide was large enough print to be accessible to all).

— Audience feedback

Age & Gender

70%

18-35

69%

Female

Location

89%

Victorian

11%

Interstate

Engagement

75%

of audiences attended two or more works

54%

of audiences were returning attendees

26%

of audiences were attending their first Next Wave Festival

Travel

77%

of audiences used environmentally friendly transport to get to their event

95%

of interstate/overseas audiences travelled to Melbourne specifically for Next Wave

Audience Diversity & Inclusion

4.8%

of NWF18 audiences identify as people with disability, an increase of 37% from 2016

58%

of total NWF18 audience were aware of Next Wave's access services and resources

31%

of audiences identified as ATSI or CALD

7%

increase in ATSI audiences from 2016

92%

ATSI audiences report an increase in cultural pride following attendance at Next Wave

I'm so glad Next Wave exists. It's my favourite Melbourne performance festival.

— Audience feedback

Keep up the diverse programming and access - thank you so much!

— Audience feedback

Luke Duncan King, *I Am a...* Photo: Sneharcho Ghosh.





Sista Zai Zanda, *SANKOFA the love vibration*. Photo by Snehargho Ghosh.

SUPPORTERS & PARTNERSHIPS

Next Wave Festival 2018 was proudly supported by Creative Victoria and City of Melbourne. We also extend our thanks to project partners the Australia Council for the Arts, Creative Partnerships Australia, Gordon Darling Foundation, Besen Family Foundation and our Future Shaper donors for their valued support.

We were thrilled to align with Deakin University Business School as our Education Partner, and enjoyed renewed support from Noisy Ritual Urban Winery, Mountain Goat Beer, Triple R radio Coleby Consulting and Ferve Tickets.

We welcomed fruitful partnerships with Alpha60, Archie Rose Distilling Co., Finsbury Green, Mr Moto and The Road Clothing and thank them for their generous contributions to Next Wave Festival 2018.

Finally, through private giving, the new generation of Australian philanthropists – the Next Wave Collective – provided valuable financial support to Next Wave and its artists, for which we are deeply and eternally thankful.

44%

of audience are likely or very likely to increase their use of a Next Wave sponsor brand

73%

of audience remember seeing Next Wave sponsors in print and online

34,370

online users during festival period saw pages that included sponsor logos

91,468

total reach on Facebook during the festival period

Phuong Ngo, *Ritual #2*. Photo: Snehargho Ghosh.



Major Partners



Media Partner



Program Partners



Festival Partners



Next Wave

Office 4, 5 Blackwood Street

North Melbourne VIC 3151

+61 3 9329 9422

nextwave.org.au

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