



## THE HON PAUL FLETCHER MP

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts

### MEDIA RELEASE

18 January 2022

#### **\$5.5 million to enhance regional and remote performing arts tours**

Leading arts tours spanning music, theatre, circus and dance will be supported with \$5.5 million to tour 151 locations across rural and regional Australia, in the latest round of the Australia Council's Playing Australia touring program.

Minister for Communications, Urban Infrastructure, Cities and the Arts, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, said the funding would support 16 creative projects that engage diverse regional and remote audiences.

“Artists and arts workers in regional and remote places use art and culture to build strong communities, generate jobs and inspire audiences, which is why this \$5.5 million will drive economic recovery and arts development,” Minister Fletcher said.

“The Morrison Government is committed to supporting increased access to high quality arts performances in regional and remote Australia, and I look forward to seeing these projects transform local communities.”

Australia Council CEO, Adrian Collette AM, said this investment through Playing Australia means more audiences have the opportunity to experience and enjoy some of Australia's leading performing artists including music, theatre, circus, cross-artform and dance.

“We're particularly pleased the latest round of investment will support a diverse range of performances aimed at engaging young people and those based in regional and remote communities around Australia” Mr Collette said.

Recipients include Critical Stages Touring and Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People, two of Australia's leading theatre companies, with funding support for their regional touring programs from 2023.

There is also a large focus on First Nations representation, with Archie Roach set to perform across regional NSW and QLD, engaging with First Nations peoples in these communities.

Playing Australia is administered by the Australia Council and has three grant rounds each year to support net touring and other designated costs associated with performing arts tours.

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**Playing Australia October 2021 Funding Round Recipients:**

<b>Grantee Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People Ltd	NSW	\$1,050,000.00*	Multi-year touring funding supporting a new era and model for Monkey Baa regional touring from 2023.
Critical Stages Touring	NSW	\$1,050,000.00*	Critical Stages Touring - 2023-2025 Program
Cluster Arts Pty Ltd	QLD	\$560,682.00*	CIRC Road Show - Development & Celebration of Australian Circus in all its richly diverse forms.
Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People	NSW	\$75,000.00	National 48-venue tour of Monkey Baa's production of Possum Magic in 2023.
The Australian Ballet	VIC	\$504,360.00	The Australian Ballet Regional Tour
Play On Presents PL	VIC	\$115,567.00	Archie Roach regional and remote touring activity through NSW, the ACT and QLD in February 2022.
Second Echo Ensemble	TAS	\$121,526.00	Bending the WIND Tasmanian tour
Artback NT Incorporated	NT	\$273,870.00	4x4: 4 Tours, 4 Artforms, 1 Territory
Regional Arts Victoria	VIC	\$27,086.00	2022 Regional Victorian Community Engagement Tour of 'Sound of Your Town' by Mama Kin Spender
HIT Productions Pty Ltd	VIC	\$413,122.00	'The Sunshine Club' Book & Lyrics by Wesley Enoch Music by John Rodgers Directed by Wesley Enoch
State Opera of South Australia	SA	\$164,554.00	Regional tour of Australian opera Love Burns by Grahame Koehne, visiting NT, SA, QLD and WA.
Critical Stages Touring	NSW	\$372,969.00	Critical Stages Touring 2022 Touring Activity
South Australian Country Arts Trust	SA	\$369,083.00	EUPHORIA National Tour 2023
Nicholas Clark Management Pty Ltd	VIC	\$189,235.00	To tour the award-winning circus showdown Barbaroi to TAS, QLD, WA, NSW & VIC to 18 venues in 2022.
Branch Nebula Incorporated	NSW	\$134,553.00	National tour of Branch Nebula's performance and workshops, demi-DEMO
Shaun Parker & Company Ltd	NSW	\$85,507.00	Tour of FOUND OBJECTS across 4 states, featuring 5 dancers, workshops and local artists development.

*\*Grand funding total for multi-year projects*