



About Big hART

Big hART is a group of professional artists, arts workers and producers who have been making work together since 1992 – creating theatre, film, television, painting, photography, dance, new media and radio.

Big hART works around the country, with people experiencing the effects of marginalisation in regional, rural, and geographically or socially isolated communities. Big hART experiments with the process of making art with such groups over three-year periods and in doing so, provides opportunities that are inclusive and responsive to the community. This often creates new opportunities for participants, builds skills, assists regional development and helps foster a more inclusive Australian culture.

The finished work, the personal and social narratives it highlights, and the processes involved in its making, are then presented both locally and in national and international arts festivals, forums and the media. In this way Big hART projects aim to challenge and inform the narration of our nation.

The company has won many awards including 7 Council of Australian Government (COAG) Awards - for crime and violence prevention and a World Health Organization Safe Community Award. Big hART's work has received strong praise from diverse sources such as the United Nations, Ministers in the Australian Parliament, people at the grass roots of communities and the Chair of the Australia Council - Mr James Strong. These accolades recognise Big hART's exemplary work in communities, and the quality of the Art it leads to, reinforcing the company's standing as a leader in both the Arts and Social Change.

Big hART's most well known works include:

Ngapartji Ngapartji, about the Cold War nuclear testing impact on indigenous families in central Australia, that recently had sell out seasons in four major festivals;

The Northcott Narratives Public Housing work that produced the ABC documentary *900 Neighbours* and the 2006 Sydney Festival hit *StickybrickS* and;

Drive In Holiday, a hybrid work informed by the relaxed atmosphere of the shack communities who worked on the project. This touring amphitheatre of caravans was described by Ten Days on the Island Artistic Director Elizabeth Walsh as “a whole new form”.

In addition to *This Is Living*, Big hART is currently running five other projects around Australia.

Visit www.bighart.org for details.