

April 2021

Dear VV community,

You are receiving our very first of the quarterly newsletters we intend to share and keep you informed every term!

On behalf of VV we would like to thank every single one of you for supporting the transition of City of Port Phillip Fog Theatre and Sparc Theatre Programs to Vitae Veritas. Since this memorandum of understanding was signed in December, VV has been able to continue service delivery, facilitating both Fog and Sparc's return to centre and community based settings after what was undoubtedly a most challenging year in 2020.

We want to acknowledge the vital support and management Port Phillip Council provided to these programs from 1991 and 2004 respectively until 2020. An especial thank you to Cathy Horsley who lead this process thoughtfully and sensitively and endures as one of our much-loved and respected champion and supporter.

Further to this, the opportunity to establish VV, raise awareness of our aims to promote cultural diversity, artistic excellence and inclusive arts leadership and increase recognition of artists with disability and their creative practice with others across the arts, culture, disability and community sector has been incredibly rewarding, successful and exciting to date.

Some highlights include:

- VV is now a not-for-profit organisation and registered charity
- VV has attracted and responded to numerous partnership requests- enlivening opportunities and projects that will be upcoming in 2021-2022
- VV/Fog Theatre has been shortlisted for Australia Council's Reimagine Sector Recovery Initiatives, working with Care-full Design Lab, RMIT University
- VV/Fog Theatre will soon release Power Up! their new meditation video and audio work, an accompaniment to Fog's first guided meditation called Signature, made in collaboration with artist Kate Geck and the Arts Wellbeing Collective, Arts Centre Melbourne
- VV is co-designing and facilitating several creative practice & skills development programs for individuals, each working with a variety of artists specialising in different forms. Each program will culminate in different presentation and performance outcomes throughout the year
- Furthering accessibility and audio description in the arts across Melbourne & regional Victoria and NSW, with a focus on dance, for people who are Blind or vision impaired

Now for the visuals!

#### FOG THEATRE-

**WEEKLY WORKSHOPS-** a combination of the first few weeks back in the room, then with guest artist Dan, all the while continuing to express with energy and drama!





**CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS and 50<sup>TH</sup>!** Happy Birthdays were had for William, Melissa, Clem, Tim and Rachel. Happy birthday in the holidays India! And did you know Fog is turning 30 this year?!



**POWER UP!** Some stills from the draft film and artwork examples responding to 'before lockdown', 'after lockdown' and 'power up'. Official launch of film to be announced in early May.



## SPARC THEATRE-



If you want to connect and be creative with other like-minded people, develop friendships and build your skills in performance, theatre and film— Sparc Theatre invites you to join us!

Every Friday 10am-1pm, starting 23 April Baxter Hall, Christchurch Community Centre, Cnr Acland & Eildon Street, St. Kilda, Sparc Theatre is a fee-for-service activity.

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## HANNAH'S CREATIVE PRACTICE



Hannah's individual program aims to build and develop her skills and practice in- wellness through yoga & meditation; creativity through film & photography; and performance through dance & choreography, working with 3 artists Rachel Edward, Gemma Falk and Dave Maney.

Celebrating Hannah's achievements, VV and Hannah will co-produce and present a showing of work at an online live event to invited guests, family and friends in June.

## WILLIAM'S CREATIVE PRACTICE



William's individual program focuses on creative explorations of William's artistic interests- comedy, physical theatre, singing, dancing, spoken word, performance with artist Dave Maney- and community access engaging William in additional social, recreational and hobby activities, including excursions and events in local neighbourhood and CBD.

William will work towards 2 showings this year, learning and gaining independent skills & knowledge in production, marketing & promotion, and event management, as well as the leadership experience of presenting his artistic repertoire on a theatrical stage, with sound, props and costume, in front of a live audience.

In April William & Dave attended Lano & Woodley at the Arts Centre as part of the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. William's highlight was the table tennis scene!

## IAN'S CREATIVE PRACTICE



Ian's individual program kicked off this week, working with artist Gemma Fallk. Ian's goals are to build his skills and creative practice in the performing arts and produce & present one live performance to invited guests, family and friends at the end of the year.

## IMPORTANT DATES

Fog Theatre recommences Thursday 22 April

Sparc Theatre commences Friday 23 April

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We respect and honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge the stories, traditions and living cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this land and commit to building a brighter future together. By coming together, we do so in the spirit of hope, healing and reconciliation, so that the work we do achieves greater social justice, equity and inclusion of all people.

**Thanks to** Rachel Edward for the in-house photography at Fog Theatre Sparc image by Paul Dunn; William snaps by Dave Maney; Hannah's still from video by Rachel Edward; Power Up stills from animation by Kate Geck; Power Up visual artworks by Clem, Tim, Ruth, John, Brin, Michael & Mattie; Ian photos by Nilgun

**Ideas, Feedback, Information & Enquiries-** contact us at Vitae Veritas!  
[info@vitaeveritas.com.au](mailto:info@vitaeveritas.com.au) or [nilgun@vitaeveritas.com.au](mailto:nilgun@vitaeveritas.com.au)



Be safe and well, from VV