

Charles Sanders

House of Sand
34 Railway Terrace
Mile End , SA 5037

To The Membership Of The Independent Arts Foundation,

**RE: House of Sand Season 2018
Independent Arts Foundation Small Grant**

I write to thank the Foundation and the membership for their support over 2018, and to report on the success of our '18 season and related activities.



As planned, 2018 for House of Sand was our first year of operations in South Australia (as well as our fourth year of operations nationally and in NZ). We presented four works across three unique 'seasons' in SA, as well as presenting work in Sydney and Wellington.

In addition, and most pertinent to the original pitch to the IAF, during 2018 we are able to develop and nuance how we work as an independent arts collective.

We pitched and marketed our season as a suite of work akin to that of a core-funded company, which facilitated

growth and cross-pollination of audiences across and between our projects. We grew our online followings by over 100% (e-mailing list) and more than 300% (Facebook and Instagram). By engaging producer Suzanne Merrall, and developing our own skills in the business side of show, we successfully managed budgets as large as \$150,000 and received and acquitted funding from Arts South Australia, the City of Adelaide, Creative Partnerships Australia (in both the Match Lab and Australian Cultural Fund schemes), The City of Sydney and Creative New Zealand. We raised (and promptly paid to our artists!) Over \$20,000 in philanthropy.

After receipt of the IAF Small Grant we re-assessed the need for formally constitute as a not-for-profit and committed our energies elsewhere for the time being - continuing to operate as a collective. Much of the groundwork towards constitution was completed, and sits waiting for the right time.



Artistically, House of Sand work in 2018 was received with effusive reviews from audiences, press and industry alike, and we provided work and professional development for over 40 artists, some 25 of them SA residents (plus a few SA Ex-Pat's).



In March our double bill of 'origin story' contemporary performance works - **Pedal & Castles** - were received effusively at the Fringe. Presented in partnership with Holden Street Theatres this season earned House of Sand a Best Dance Weekly Award and a spate of 4 and 5 star reviews.

These works had previously been seen and loved in Wellington, Auckland, Canberra, Sydney and Melbourne, and the chance to bring our first 2 works to my beloved Adelaide audience was a professional and personal thrill. Creator/performer and Co Artistic Director of House of Sand Eliza Sanders (who also happens to be my sister) used this season to start building relationships in Adelaide, and now when in town she teaches regularly for South Australian Independent Dance and is developing ongoing collaborations in the state.

In April and May we presented two new works in Wellington and Sydney. **Fear of Eggs**, a new original dance work, was well received at the NZ Fringe and received three NZ Fringe Award nominations. **REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN.** by **Alice Birch** took Sydney by storm and earned both Eliza and I nominations for Broadway World Sydney Awards, before it came to Adelaide in November.

Welcome The Bright World by Stephen Sewell,

presented as the 2018 Umbrella production of STCSA, was our largest project for the year, and indeed ever. Requiring the creation of not just a set, but an entire theatre inside the beautiful but impractical shell of The Queens; with a team of over 25 artists, a sprawling three act structure, and about forty five different plot lines; Stephen's behemoth play was the greatest challenge that I, personally, have ever faced as a director and producer.

I am thrilled and humbled to report that it was received with universal acclaim, thanks in large part to an astounding creative & performance team, led (on stage, in partnership with me in the cheap seats) by luminary talent Terence Crawford. The production earned House of Sand nominations for both the Group Award for Professional Theatre and the Independent Arts Foundation's own Innovation Award at the Adelaide Critics Circle Awards, another spate of glowing reviews from Adelaide's critics, and a place on Murray Bramwell's Top 5 best shows of 2018. For me, it turned out to be exactly as rewarding as it always promised to be challenging - that is, immeasurably. The skills I developed on the project have, I believe, extended my practice well beyond what I could previously have achieved and secured my clout as a director of promise in the South Australian landscape. I know that many artists from among the team feel similarly about their own professional development.



To close the year we brought **REVOLT. SHE SAID. REVOLT AGAIN.** by **Alice Birch** to Adelaide, again in partnership with Holden Street Theatres, where we were again received effusively by press and audiences alike. **REVOLT.** is a work which deals with women and their lives, and never before in my professional life have more people — particularly women — approached me in the foyer to assert how much they had been moved to see their concerns so sharply reflected, and to discuss the themes of the work. These conversations were an honour. It is our hope and belief that this production will continue to tour in 2019 and beyond.

I spoke regularly to the IAF members who are known to me personally in our foyers (and other foyers) over the course of the year, and am eternally grateful for the support and provocation of individual members, as well as that of the Foundation collectively. The IAF's support is not only deeply valued in a financial sense. The membership's personal engagement with the work was, and I'm sure will continue to be, an even greater source of value and appreciation from all at House of Sand. Thank you for your support in 2018 and I look forward to partnering, working and conversing with the Foundation and its members again in the future!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Charles Sanders".

Charles Sanders
Co Artistic Director, House of Sand