



14 December 2023

Milestone for South Australian disability arts organisation

South Australian disability arts organisation Tutti Arts was yesterday announced as one of the recipients of Creative Australia's multi-year investment for 2025-2028. Tutti's vision is to see learning disabled and neurodivergent people seize their rightful place at the centre of arts and culture.

Creative Director Gaelle Mellis says, "Engaging with creativity is both essential to the human experience and a human right. Disability exposes another aspect of the lived human experience, and it deepens the richness of creative language. Tutti champions disability as an urgent and critical evolution of the arts and believes that a disability lens is vital to the evolution of the arts and arts practice. This significant investment from Creative Australia, paired with existing multi-year funding from Arts South Australia, puts Tutti Arts in a strong position to provide extraordinary opportunities for the artists we work with and make a vital contribution to Australian arts and culture."



Above: Actor Kate Watts

Photo: Sam Oster

Media Release

Tutti's focus is on contemporary arts practices, arts and technology, and individual artist development across multiple art-forms: visual arts, music, dance, theatre and screen.

Tutti Arts General Manager Linda Williams says, "This is the first time that Tutti has been successful in securing multi-year funding from Creative Australia and it is a significant achievement. This investment allows us to plan with more certainty, in achieving our ambitious artistic program. It is a major endorsement of the vision and direction for Tutti Arts in this new era."

Actor Kate Watts (pictured above) is a member of Tutti Arts-based autistic theatre ensemble Company AT. Watts says, "Being involved as a performer in disability arts has been one of the best things that have happened to me. It has allowed me to continue my passion for performance and exploring my autistic identity. I want to highlight ...the merit, richness and diversity that we [disabled artists] bring to the table."

"Tutti plays a crucial role in the arts sector as a disruptor and enabler of alternative stories of disability that are a reflection of the times in which they are created. I am excited for the future of Tutti Arts and its astonishing artists," concludes Mellis.

Tutti Arts has also launched a fundraising campaign appealing donors to support the work and careers of learning disabled and neurodivergent artists. The campaign is targeting \$50,000 which, if successful, will be matched by Creative Australia's Plus 1 initiative. Tutti has passed the halfway mark towards this target and is appealing for new donors. Donations can be made online at www.givenow.com.au/double-donations

FURTHER INFORMATION

About Tutti Arts

Tutti Arts is a South Australian multi-arts organisation that supports over 230 learning disabled and neurodivergent South Australian artists across three sites at Brighton, Port Adelaide and the Barossa Valley. Tutti delivers a suite of studio programs in dance, visual arts, music, screen, choirs, theatre, arts and technology. Tutti produces and presents outstanding artistic and cultural products made by learning disabled and neurodivergent people. Tutti's work showcases unique ways of thinking and diverse ways of being.

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