

# CONNECT2ABILITIES

No Strings and Culture Maru  
- 4 April to 1 May

In April No Strings started a three-session collaborative workshop over Zoom with Culture Maru, called Connect2Abilities (based in Adelaide, Cheongju and Seoul, South Korea). The performers from both countries were supported with live simultaneous English/Korean translation, and explored movement as the common language.

Participants in both countries joined in exercises together, online, such as:  
How many ways to make a circle with your body?  
Rhythmically introduce yourselves with a dance move that represents something quirky and special about you.

Performers used dance as the medium but always gave a personal twist. No Strings performers learned the Circle Dance or Ganggangsullae (강강술래), a Korean dance that celebrates and prays for a bountiful and prosperous harvest season while Korean performers learnt the Australian chant "Aussie Aussie Aussie, Oi Oi Oi".

With each of the three sessions bringing all the performers closer together, it was like the screen between them slowly disappeared. Despite the challenge of distance, the performers made new connections and explored new movement vocabularies and interactions.

Reflecting on all the workshops, it was interesting to see how our Adelaide performers enjoyed the traditional Korean games and our Korean performers loved it when they built movements from simple objects. In the last workshop you could see how connected the performers had become and everyone exchanged intentions to collaborate in the future.

For documentation and future exploration, Edwin Kemp Attrill captured archive footage from all three sites of the activity (in Korea and Adelaide). Be it offline or online, hopefully, one day we will get to see all of the project collaborators perform in person, on the same stage.

## Performers 배우

Paddy Firster 패디 울스터

Kathryn Hall 캐서린 홀

Kobi Taylor 코비 테일러

Yeon Gysang 연규상

Bong Mingyun 불민윤

Heo Jeongin 허정인

Lee Yeongchae 이영재

Jo Sujin 조수진

Byeon Haerin 변해린

**Lead Creative Facilitator** 책임 창작 퍼실리테이터

Tyson Olson 타이슨 올슨

Ryu Jina 류지나

Yoon Hyunjung 윤현정

**Associate Creative Facilitator** 자원 창작 퍼실리테이터

Michaela Cantwell 미카엘라 칸트웰

Lee Jeamoon 이재문

Lim Mingyeong 임민경

**Creative Producer** 창작 프로듀서

Kerry Ireland 케리 아일랜드

Yun Bo Kyung 윤보경

**Filming** 촬영

Edwin Kemp Attrill 에드윈 켈프 아트릴

Shin Yuseop 신유섭

Lee Hosu 이호수

**CEO** 대표

No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability : Kari Seeley

카리 실리

Social enterprise, Art Center CultureMaru : Yun Bo Kyung

윤보경

UniSA Business Connect2Abilities 남호주 대학 코넥트2어빌리티

**International Collaboration Coordination** 국제 협력 코디네이션

Dr Boram Lee 이보람

Trena Jenifer 트레나 제니퍼

Professor Ruth Rentschler OAM 루스 렌츨러

**Support** 후원

Australia-Korea Foundation 한호재단

Art'Stay Dance theater 흥공간 아트스테이무용원

With thanks to:

Dr Boram Lee, Senior Lecturer Arts & Cultural

Management, University of SA Business School

Bo-Kyung Yoon, CEO, Art Center CultureMaru, South Korea

Art'Stay Dance Theater and Real Dance Company, South Korea

Australia-Korea Foundation, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia



# SAME-SAME 2.0

SAME-SAME 2.0 is the next iteration of SAME-SAME, a collaboration between No Strings and Diverse Abilities Dance Collective (Singapore) starting in 2020. During 2021 SAME-SAME 2.0 began an online international Fringe tour (another first for No Strings). The first leg of the tour was Melbourne. Unfortunately, Melbourne became one of the most locked-down cities in the world due to COVID-19. The Melbourne Fringe was all but cancelled except for online shows. Being one of the only shows to originally plan to be online we were disappointed in the downsizing of the Fringe but excited to be performing!

SAME-SAME 2.0 is an ensemble-devised dance and theatre production that celebrates friendship across multiple borders - countries, cultures, and abilities. Highlighting the experiences of disabled performers in Singapore and Australia during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the artists welcome you into their homes to explore questions such as: How can we connect online? How are we the same? How are we different? How can the arts bring us together? We invited people to join us from their living room, and see if we are all SAME-SAME?

Performed by: June Lin, Chen Wanyl (Singapore), Jack Sadler, Zoe Walker (Australia)  
Co-director by: Jeffrey Tan (Open Homes) and Andi Snelling (Happy-Go-Wrong)

Reviews:

*"This show strips away the fourth wall to inspire us, challenge us, and offer us the confidence to continue facing these extraordinary times. It reminds us we are not alone."*

- Thomas Gregory Theatre Travels

*"This is a very emotional, evocative and thought provoking piece of theatre, whilst at the same time, it shows us the excitement and energy that these performers have in being able to interact with others many miles away."*

- Jacqui Wall The Theatre Association South Australia





Screenshots from Melbourne Fringe performance

# NEW WEEKLY WORKSHOPS

This year there were also three new weekly workshops!

**THEATRICALS**, Thursday 2pm - 3:30pm

**THEMATICS**, Thursdays 6pm - 7:30pm

**STAGECRAFT**, Saturdays 1pm - 2:30pm

Each new workshop has focused on bringing together new and existing participants to create and build content, develop new skills and build the current No Strings community. These new workshops are part of our growth strategy and all of them continue to create exciting theatre.

## PLAN A CAREER IN THE CREATIVE ARTS INDUSTRY

(a Unit in a Certificate III)

5th May to 23rd June

In 2020 the Centre for People Development gained a grant from SA's Department for Innovation and Skills to tailor the delivery and assessment of one subject in Plan a Career in the Creative Arts Industry for artists with lived experience of cognitive impairment/other disabilities.

Along with funding from Future2 Make the Difference Grant from the Financial Planners Association of Australia (SA Chapter), No Strings invited participants to be part of an exciting new nationally-accredited training program tailored to help participants Develop a Career in the Creative Arts.

The 8-week Pilot Program provided each participant with a 1:1 Support Mentor for the duration of the course where:

Participants identified their career goals and learnt what they need to do, and who can help them do it;

Participants learnt how to meet the people who can help them find jobs

Participants learnt how to present their skills & experiences;

Participants learnt how to prepare for interviews/auditions;

Participants made a plan for their careers, and the course helped them think about learning some new skills.

Everyone who enrolled this training completed CUAIND304 Plan a Career in the Creative Arts Industry, one unit towards a nationally-accredited Certificate III.

This project was devised, developed, and delivered in collaboration with Jill Gael, at the Centre for People Development (CPD) and No Strings.



Ryan Rowl, Kathryn Hill, Gabrielle Lee, Jill Gael, Duncan Luke & other Merfors



For more information, visit [www.merfors.com](http://www.merfors.com)

# NO STRINGS INTENSIVES



## ACTING FOR FILM with PAULO CASTRO

19 - 23 April

27 Sep - 1st October

In April and September we had the wonderful Paulo Castro back in the No Strings office passing on his expertise to an intimate group of excited No Strings participants.

This short course ran for 10 sessions packed into one week. Acting for Film is designed as an introduction to prepare participants to work in/on professional film and film sets. This intensive we focused on working on camera, developing film-specific skills in voice, movement, focus, interactions, and working with others on screen. This practical course included on site filming and reviewing footage of work developed during class.

### Course Outcomes

- Understanding differences in theatre acting vs film acting
- Growth in confidence on camera
- Taking direction and changing performance delivery
- How to react to different camera angles/movement
- Interacting with others on film

### More about Paulo:

Paulo Castro is a renowned Portuguese & Australian theatre director, actor and filmmaker and playwright, respected for his political and provocative works. Paulo was the recipient of the Best New Director award in Portugal for his work on the 2001 European Capital of Culture in Portugal. He has directed works at the Sao Joao National Theatre, including Edward Bon's Red Black and Ignorant and Chaos is Near Godby Lars Noren.

Paulo formed Stone/ Castro with Jo Stone in 2003, writing, directing, and performing in works including Dis-integration Wake Up Hate, RED SKY and Massacre. In 2010 Paulo directed Superheros in Space, which toured to Adelaide and Melbourne. Most recently Paulo wrote and directed Decomposition for the 2014 Adelaide Festival. Other recent works include Death of a Clown for Teatro Bando/Portuguese National Theatre in 2011, Director for Footsoldiers by Nicki Bloom for Brink Productions, Tom the Loneliest for No Strings Attached and Motortown for the in Alakantara Festival Portugal. Paulo has worked with No Strings before in such productions as Tom the Loneliest and Maurice's Symphony (short film).

Photography: Alessandro Verrill & Adrian Sargiac  
Words by Sophie Gilbert

## EMBODIED PRESENCE with ROEL VOORBIJ

12-16 April  
5-9 July

Embodied presence is a short course that focuses on your physical awareness and presence onstage. Roel believes that a good starting point as an actor/performer is to make contact with yourself and the audience in a balanced capacity. When you can just be and accept yourself for who and what you are in this moment in time, without having to show or do anything onstage. Then you are present and ready to show yourself and take on a character to share your story. Roel believes that if you rush a story or character without these fundamentals, you are sharing subconscious signals that may blur your performance. Once we enter into the balance of inner and outer, communication, we start engaging with the energy and magic that theatre has to offer.

### Course Outcomes:

- Growth in presence and confidence
- Increased awareness of the senses
- Increased ability to create dynamics
- Increased awareness of personal stage presence and choices
- Improvement in physical ease, balance, breath connection



### More about Roel Voorbij:

Roel started acting at an early age and has been on stage since he was 12. He's an actor, teacher and coach. His background is Dutch and studied Theatre at the internationally recognized Amsterdam School of the Arts, Mime Education (Mime corporel, not pantomime). The projects I entertain are mostly created from a concept and shared philosophy developed through improvisation in co-operation with several directors, performed in Holland, Belgium, France, Spain, Morocco, New York and Australia.

Media (press, radio, tv, etc.): [www.roelvoorbij.nl](http://www.roelvoorbij.nl)  
Photo by Catherine Purling





# BOARD & GOVERNANCE, STAFF AND TEACHING ARTISTS

## Teaching Team

Teaching Artist	Ashleigh Hauschild
Teaching Artist	Brooke Marshall
Teaching Artist	Catherine Purling
Teaching Artist	Mitre Khammash
Teaching Artist	Roel Voorbij
Teaching Artist	Stephanie Cavallaro
Teaching Artist	Tyson Olson



**Board - serving since FY2020 AGM, (22 June 2021)**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Prof Ruth Rentschler OAM</b>
<b>Treasurer/Public Officer</b>	<b>Rhett Fraser</b>
<b>Board Secretary</b>	<b>Abby McKay</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Andi Snelling</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Kathryn McGowan</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Michelle Lyon-Green</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Michael McCrea</b>

**Serving through until the FY2020 AGM,  
held on (22 June 2021)**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>John Oster - did not stand for re-election</b>
<b>Treasurer/Public Officer</b>	<b>Autumn Slavin - completed 3 times</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Greg Cashel - did not stand for re-election</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Danielle Hibbard - did not stand for re-election</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Michael Allen - did not stand for re-election</b>
<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Tanya Schraa - did not stand for re-election</b>

**Staff**

<b>GM/Acting CEO/CEO</b>	<b>Kari Seeley</b>
<b>Artistic Associate</b>	<b>Jermaine Hampton</b>
<b>Artistic Associate</b>	<b>Michaela Cantwell</b>
<b>Artistic Assistant</b>	<b>Kathryn Hall</b>
<b>Administration Officer</b>	<b>Irene Lau</b>
<b>Admin/Exec Support</b>	<b>James Rundle</b>
<b>Creative Producer (until July 31)</b>	<b>Kerry Ireland</b>
<b>Marketing &amp; Comms Creative</b>	<b>Radh� Osborn</b>
<b>Workshop Administrator</b>	<b>Gabriel Lee</b>



# TREASURER'S REPORT

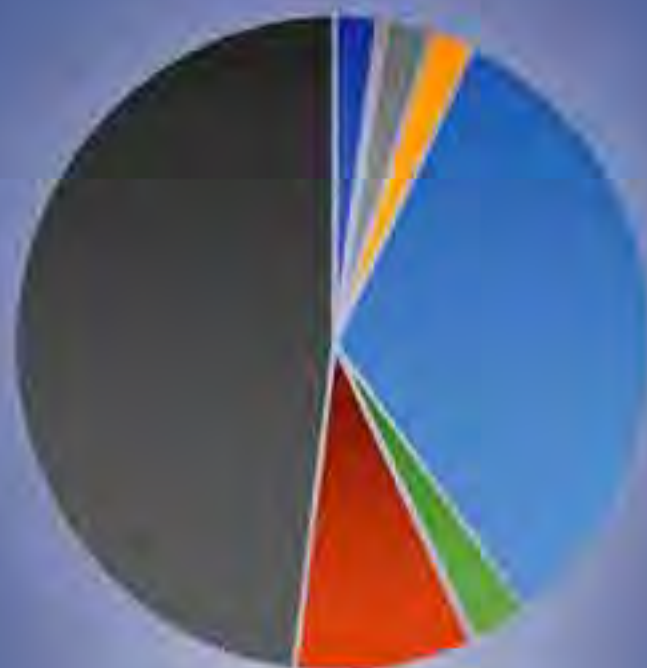
2021 was my first year as Treasurer for No String Attached Theatre of Disability. It has been a rewarding experience but with challenges due to the ongoing global pandemic, COVID-19. Assisting a great organisation to achieve great things has been a privilege and indeed rewarding.

In the 2021 financial year (Jan - Dec 2021), No Strings made a net loss of \$53,286. This is \$17,492 greater than the budgeted loss of \$35,794 which was approved by the previous Board in December 2020. The new board approved a budgeted surplus of \$31,744 for the 2022 financial year in December 2021, as we adjust and pivot to a different operating environment. This will be closely managed throughout the year. Sufficient cash is held to cover this loss. However the priority is to return to operating in surplus and re-build cash reserves as quickly as possible

With considerably less financial government support available in 2021 compared to 2020, No Strings managed to increase revenue from other sources such as Workshops & Grants. Workshop fees increased from \$96,858 in 2020 to \$174,496 in 2021. Income from grants also increased from \$442,333 in 2020 to \$533,624 in 2021. As at 31 December 2021, there were \$22,099 of grants received which had not been expended yet. The pie chart below shows the types of income received in 2021.

I'm looking forward to helping the organisation again, throughout 2022.

Rhett Fraser  
Treasurer



- Box Office
- Contributions
- COVID-19 Government Stimulus
- Donations
- Workshop Fees
- Other Income
- Sales of Goods
- Sponsors
- Grants



Photo by Radh  Osborn  
Performer: Paul Bennier  
Teaching Artist: Catherine Purling

# ARTISTIC RATIONALE

No Strings is a world-class theatre company that proudly works exclusively with performers living with disability. Our people are the stars, not just support acts.

We produce award-winning productions with local, national, and international tours that deeply move audiences to the point where disability disappears.

No Strings is leading the way to evolve the art form, providing opportunity and access to any role, at any level.

We believe in breaking the "fifth wall" - the barriers associated with disability. We entertain while we empower, and we celebrate ability while being committed to excellence and innovation.

Our theatre skills workshops are where experimentation meets talent. We uniquely co-design our programs with participants so all aspects are tailored to their individual interests. This allows for the greatest form of engagement and expression.

We present professional mentoring in a supportive environment, working in partnership with our artists to help them learn, grow, explore, and reach their potential.



Drama skills are life skills. As people find their voice and develop their craft, they grow in leadership and independence, which creates exciting new employment pathways.

By letting ability shine through, we're challenging expectations and educating societies to achieve true inclusion. Our theatre showcases the power of diversity and acceptance, where disability doesn't define.

No Strings is about breaking down barriers, raising our voices, and showing the world what people with disability are capable of achieving.

No Strings  
- the theatre redefining (dis)ability.





## OUR HISTORY

In 1994 Helen Flinter-Leach founded No Strings on the belief that quality work in the arts can positively affect people's lives. That legacy continues, with No Strings' commitment to collaborative co-design of all content reflecting the lived experience of our performers living with disability, resulting in multi-award-winning productions that have toured nationally and internationally to broad acclaim.

### Our founder Helen Flinter-Leach

Helen won a posthumous Ruby Award in 2020 for her trailblazer spirit and her contribution to the theatre community and disability arts community. In 2021 Helen was shortlisted in the National Awards for Disability Leadership for the Lesley Hall Award for Lifetime Achievement.



Photo by Rachel Osborn

Performers: Richard Sama, Jack Seidler, Paul Bermer & Ryan Rowland

Teaching Artists: Mire Khammash, Catherine Purling & Stephanie Cavallaro

# SUPPORTING PARTNERS



CITY OF CHARLES STURT -  
WOODVILLE TOWN HALL



CITY OF  
NORWOOD  
PAYNEHAM  
& ST PETERS



CMV STAFF FOUNDATION

CITY OF NORWOD, PAYNEHAM  
& ST PETERS



Community Bridging  
Services (CBS) Inc



Government  
of South Australia  
Arts South Australia

CMV STAFF FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY BRIDGING SERVICES  
(CBS)

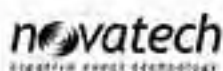


ARTS SOUTH AUSTRALIA

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

JESSIE SHOWELL DESIGNS

WORLDWIDE



KMPR PUBLICITY AND PROMOTIONS

NOVATECH



SEELEY INTERNATIONAL

WORLDWIDE





**NO STRINGS**

ATTACHED

THEATRE OF  
DISABILITY

No Strings Attached Theatre of Disability  
ABN 30 433 646 981

+61 8 8363 5970  
contact.us@nostringsattached.org.au  
www.nostringsattached.org.au

66 Nelson Street, Stepney SA 5096, Australia

 @NSATheatre

 @NSATheatre

 @asatheatreofdisability

Original Design & Layout by Paul McGowan  
Colour & Imaging by Mitre Khammash