



WYNYARD HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CREATES NEW PATHWAYS

Education in Tasmania is at a crossroads with a number of schools trialling a shift from the college system to include Years 11 and 12. Wynyard High is one such school and in partnership with **Big hART** a remarkable whole-of-school project has been taking shape over the last semester. Called **"This is Not a Speech Night"**, the project builds on the strengths of the creative Industries in being able to quickly develop new pathways for young people to new kinds of employment and encourage self-entrepreneurs.

Big hART CEO Scott Rankin says "The jobs of the future will be based in the ideas and knowledge economies and yet our educational values tend to be based on 19th and 20th century approaches to preparing our young people for the future. We tend to teach what to think, rather than how to think."

There are no stars in This is Not a Speech Night. Every role, from construction, backstage, video, sound and lights, costume, media and performance is equally valued. The content of the show looks at the unsung heroes of the broad school community and turns the usual award ceremony on its head. This project has engaged more than half the school in an enormous team effort to build a performance event for the whole community which will run over two weeks - from **28 July to 5 August**.

For the last 10 years, Big hART has worked in partnership with Wynyard High to experiment with creating practical alternative pathways for students at the school. These projects have included Love Zombies, We Vote Soon, and 2 Strong Hearts. Each project has attracted half of Wynyard's population as audiences and been instrumental in young people gaining in confidence and skills and going on to further education and careers in the creative industries and beyond. By creating this show from scratch, rather than opting for something off the shelf, students are learning how to think, create and work as a large team and contribute to their community.

Big hART's project on the NW Coast combines **Project O** – 'backing rural young women to make change in their community,' with **20+20 Project** assisting young people to make work happen, with This is Not a Speech Night, to create a layered opportunity to fire the imagination and brain power of young people and propel them to new confidence, new careers and opportunities. The entire production crew of the show are comprised of young women from the 20+20 program, who will be delivering all aspects of technical production for the shows. Some of this crew delivered the highly successful Acoustic Life of Sheds as part of Ten Days on the Island Festival.

Big hART is Australia's leading arts company for social change. Founded in Burnie in 1992, Big hART celebrates 25 years in 2017, working in over 50 communities, alongside over 8000 individuals in urban, rural, regional and remote Australia and winning over 45 awards, most recently the 2016 Tasmanian Human Rights Award for Organisation of the Year.

Tickets for This is Not A Speech Night are now available online on [Trybooking here](#)



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