



BIG hART WINS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

On Friday 2nd December Big hART will be awarded the Tasmania Human Rights Award for *Organisation of the Year*.

This announcement will be made at the Human Rights Week Launch at Parliament House in Hobart on **Friday 2nd December at 1:30pm**, and will be followed by an official award ceremony at Government House on Tuesday 6th December. Wynyard High School, Big hART's Tasmanian partner in their Project O and 20+20 work, will also receive a special commendation.

'We are thrilled to be awarded this prestigious award in our home state', says Big hART's Director Scott Rankin. 'Since the company's inception in 1992 in Burnie, our objective has always been to work with people on the margins to promote equal opportunity, respect and to create real change'.

Big hART was founded in Tasmania's north west 24 years ago and has since grown into Australia's leading arts and social change company of national renown. The organisation produces critically and publicly acclaimed performance, visual, and media art while being a powerful driver of solutions to complex social problems, working with communities to foster social inclusion and participation.

To date Big hART has worked in over 45 communities, alongside over 7500 individuals in urban, rural, regional and remote Australia and won over 30 awards. In 2017 the company will celebrate 25 years. The company's projects are delivered using a non-welfare, assets based approach, working in a community for a minimum of 3 years, premised on the simple idea - 'It's much harder to hurt someone if you know their story.' Big hART is currently working in Wynyard TAS, the Pilbara WA, Cooma NSW, Melbourne VIC, and just completed a 6 year project with the Western Aranda people of Alice Springs & Hermannsburg which has just been made into a documentary which will be released in 2017.

Big hART's work in Tasmania is centred on Project O, 20+20 and the Acoustic Life of Sheds event. In Project O and the legacy 20+20 project, Big hART aims to create a cultural shift to assist in preventing family violence and building strong, positive futures in communities the Federal Government designates as hot spots. With Big hART, young women develop new capabilities, learning how to become change-makers in their community, and to seize opportunities to self-entrepreneur. This sense of personal agency assists young women to be resilient in the face of stereotypes and inequalities that place them at risk, and backs rural young people to succeed in a transitioning employment marketplace. Thanks to the support of Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash and the Office of the Minister for Women, Project O is now being rolled out nationally, and 20+20 is funded federally through Empowering Youth Initiatives by the Department of Employment.

The Acoustic Life of Sheds is the signature event on Tasmania's north west coast for the Ten Days on the Island Festival, first premiering in 2015. It is a series of innovative art and music concerts presented in farm sheds "cape to cape", from Table Cape to Rocky Cape National Park, reflecting on the impact of the rapid changes of the nature of rural life. This free event for the community will return to the Festival in March 2017, seeing composers, sound designers and artists capture the stories of the farming families, document the sheds, and create an audio world that encourages a wider appreciation of both.

For more information on Big hART's work go to www.bighart.org or follow us on our social media channels across Facebook, Twitter & Instagram.



All Media Enquiries to Big hART Publicist Bettina Richter

E: bettina@missbettinamedia.com.au

M: 0414 441 860

W: bighart.org 107 Redfern St., Redfern, N.S.W. 2016

BIG hART