

MEDIA RELEASE

South Australian Youth Arts Sector Strengthens Global Leadership at ASSITEJ 2025

Adelaide, SA – South Australia's leadership in youth arts will be showcased in France as a delegation of artists and creative leaders represent the state at the [ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2025: Bright Generations](#). Taking place in Marseille from March 24–30, the event is the world's premier gathering for theatre and performance for young audiences, bringing together leading practitioners, thinkers, and advocates from across the globe.

Of the six Australians attending this prestigious event, four hail from South Australia, reinforcing the state's role as a global leader in youth arts. The South Australian delegation includes:

Mimi Crowe, CEO of Carclew, South Australia's home of youth arts;

Andy Packer, Artistic Director of Slingsby, internationally acclaimed theatre for young people;

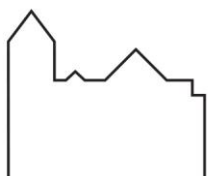
Josh Hoare, Artistic Director of the South Australian Circus Centre, home of Cirkidz;

Franca Lafosse, co-founder of Rotpunkt theatre collective in South Australia, and recipient of the *ASSITEJ New Voices Fellowship*.

Other Australian attendees include **Sue Giles AM**, President of ASSITEJ International and a leading advocate for theatre for young audiences through ASSITEJ Australia supported by Theatre Network Australia, as well as award-winning Australian-Sudanese writer **Afeif Ismail** and Artistic Associate Director Bobbi Henry and Executive Director Helen Hristofski from Yirra Yaakin in Western Australia.

As part of the gathering, the South Australian delegation will attend performances, forge new international connections and participate in discussions about the essential role of arts, culture, and creativity in shaping the lives of children and young people. Creativity is increasingly recognised as a critical skill for the future, and South Australia is set to be a world leader in fostering artistic and creative development.

This commitment aligns with the state's broader vision, as reflected in South Australia's *Economic Statement*, the *Public Education Strategy*, and the upcoming release of the *South Australian Cultural Policy*. These initiatives highlight the state's dedication to embedding creativity in education, industry, and community development, ensuring that the arts remain a driving force for innovation and opportunity.



Mimi Crowe, CEO of Carclew, said, *“This is an incredible opportunity to position South Australian artists at the heart of global conversations on the future of performance by and for young audiences. This is the 60th anniversary of ASSITEJ, an incredibly important international organisation advocating for the creative rights of children and young people. With South Australia’s rich history in youth arts, we know it will lead to greater international learning, exchange and opportunity.”*

Sue Giles, President of ASSITEJ International, highlighted the significance of the strong South Australian presence at the gathering: *“Having such a substantial representation from South Australia speaks volumes about the state’s commitment to children, young people and the arts and its growing international influence. This delegation not only brings expertise and innovation to the conversation but also strengthens Australia’s role in shaping the future of theatre for young audiences on a global scale.”*

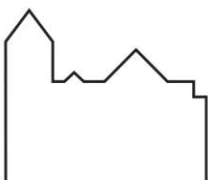
Andy Packer, Artistic Director of Slingsby, reflected on his personal journey as a theatre director, saying, *“Theatre for young audiences has always been about forging deep, lasting connections—between artists, ideas, and audiences. This gathering provides an invaluable chance to engage with global peers, share experiences, and be inspired by new perspectives that will influence my work into the future.”*

Josh Hoare, Artistic Director of SA Circus School, highlighted the importance of circus arts in international contexts: *“Circus is a universal language, and France has long recognised and supported its significance. Being in a place where circus is so deeply embedded in the cultural fabric will be an incredible opportunity to learn, exchange ideas, and bring that knowledge back to Adelaide, strengthening our own vibrant circus community.”*

Franca Lafosse, a rising star in South Australia’s creative sector, has been awarded the ASSITEJ New Voices Fellowship, supporting emerging artists to engage with international networks. *“As an Argentinian-Australian raised in between cultures, I am deeply interested in how theatre serves as a bridge between different lived experiences. My work applies a multi-lingual and multi-cultural approach to creating emotional connections in theatre, and this gathering offers an invaluable opportunity to deepen that exploration in an international setting. Engaging with artists from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds will allow me to refine my practice and contribute to the ongoing global conversation about the intersection of language, identity, and performance for young audiences.”*

With a long history of excellence in youth arts, South Australia continues to make its mark on the global stage, demonstrating the power of creative industries to inspire, educate, and connect across cultures.

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Images: [Images](#)

Social media: @carclew

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About Carclew:

Carclew is South Australia's home of youth arts and creativity. It connects all children and young people to a world of creative possibilities, as artists, learners and audiences.

As Australia's largest multi-artform cultural institution dedicated to children and young people, Carclew is a vital part of Australia's youth arts and arts sector.

Driven by our core value to have the greatest impact on the greatest number, we have an ambitious path to amplify and elevate the youth arts sector in Adelaide, South Australia and nationally.

Carclew holds an important 50+ year legacy at a point of renewal and revitalisation and is committed to seeing Carclew deliver impact and opportunity for children and young people for the next half-century.

First Nations voices and values are at the centre of all Carclew does. Through our commitment to First Nations children, artists and communities, we aim to ensure a safe space to learn and educate, inspire awareness and respect, and help to develop the cultural leaders of tomorrow.

Carclew is a for-purpose organisation with DGR status and incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

Vision

To be the home of youth arts and creativity.

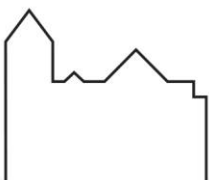
Mission

To connect all children and young people to the world of creative possibilities as artists, learners, and audiences.

Core Purpose

To have the greatest impact for the greatest number.

Visit our website to view our 2024-2028 Strategic Plan: www.carclew.com.au



About ASSITEJ

ASSITEJ International unites theatres, organisations, and individuals throughout the world who make Theatre & Performing Arts for Children & Young People. ASSITEJ International is dedicated to the artistic, cultural, and educational rights of children and young people across the globe and advocates on behalf of all children regardless of nationality, cultural identity, ethnicity, or religion. ASSITEJ International brings people together so that they can share knowledge and practice within the field of Theatre & Performing Arts for Children & Young People in order to deepen understandings, develop practice, create new opportunities, and strengthen the global sector, on behalf of all children everywhere. The members of ASSITEJ International are National Centres, Professional Networks, and Affiliates.

