

Cultural Development Network *Cultures Communities Councils*

The Cultural Development Network presents
the final event of our 2007 public program

'The international context: community-based arts initiatives overseas'

*Friday December 14, 3- 5 pm,
followed by drinks and nibbles*
**Rehearsal room, North Melbourne Town Hall,
corner Errol and Queensberry Sts, North Melbourne.
(Mel ref 2A H9, or trams 57 from city)**

This informal afternoon will feature local artists and artworkers who have recently travelled overseas to develop their skills and understanding of arts practice in diverse communities. This event will be of interest to people involved in community-based arts and community cultural development, as well as local government community and arts and culture workers.

Kirsty Baird spent four months this year in the UK and Cambodia. In the UK she visited a number of organisations and projects working with communities using film/video and new media. In Cambodia she worked with the NGO Epic Arts on puppetry and film projects with deaf and disabled young people. Kirsty will discuss some of the insights into the nature of community based arts, both in the 'developed' and in the 'developing' world, that this trip afforded her.

Rosalie Hastwell has been Manager of the Arts and Culture Program at North Richmond Community Health Centre since 2001 and Project Development Co-ordinator with the Community Cultural Development Unit, VCA since 2007. In 2006 – 2007 Rosalie's Asialink residency in India led to a community engagement program with Adishakti Laboratory for Theatre Arts Research.

Raelene Marshall will discuss her recent work at the visit to the EcoMuseo in Cortemilia in northern Italy. The EcoMuseo focuses on the preservation of the cultural landscape (dry stone wall and grapevine terraces) and is a story of one woman's achievements to create a community of interest where one did not previously exist, involving artists at every step.

Anne Riggs and Jyoti Mukherjee will discuss their recent visit to India where they ran visual and performing arts workshops for socially disadvantaged children, and professional development workshops for their teachers and community leaders, across the whole country.

This event is free. Please join us to celebrate the end of another great year.

Meet colleagues and peers after the talk and enjoy some Christmas cheer!

**Please RSVP for catering by Wed December 13 to kim.dunphy@culturaldevelopment.net.au
or 9658 9976**

The Cultural Development Network's public
program is sponsored by
the City of Melbourne



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Presenters:

Kirsty Baird has been working on community based film/video and new media projects for the last seven years. An Australia Council Skills and Arts Development grant supported her travel to the UK and Cambodia to visit and work with like minded artists. She is currently coordinating the Home Lands Project at the City of Melbourne which will connect refugee young people in Melbourne and their counterparts in camps overseas through the production of media content for an internet television program. She also produces and works on music clips with her friends

Rosalie Hastwell is committed to promoting and celebrating arts and community with culturally diverse, and refugee communities. She has been at North Richmond Community Health Centre for the past seven years, as Manager of the leading Arts and Culture Program and more recently as Executive Manager Community and Cultural Development. She is also currently working with a multidisciplinary team within the Community Cultural Development division at VCA, to develop an innovative five year project with Horn of Africa communities. In 2006- 2007 Rosalie traveled to India on an Asialink residency. She spent time with highly original and committed artists working across the interfaces of environment, politics, local history and community and established an arts program with local village children at Adishakti Laboratory for Theatre Arts Research, in South India.

Raelene Marshall has a background as a practicing artist and Local Government manager of Cultural Development and Community Arts. An Australia Council Professional Development Award in 1995 enabled her to work in the Grizedale Forest Sculpture Park in the English Lakes District, home to 'nature' influenced Sculptures by renowned artists such as Andy Goldsworthy and Sally Matthews. A week with Andy and dry stone master craftsman Steve Allen working on the 1996 Cumbria Year of the Arts 'Sheepfolds' project inspired a 'stone-change' in her career which led to her DCITA funded touring Exhibition 'A Stone Upon A Stone' (the story of Australia's dry stone walls) being awarded the Best Exhibit at the 2003 Victorian Community History Awards. Her passionate belief that expressing creative ideas through nature, art and heritage and that individuals can inspire 'communities to make a difference' has been behind her drive to develop a wide range of Local Government and other cultural projects and the catalyst for the formation of the Dry Stone Walls Association of Australia, a group which has recently influenced Heritage Victoria's policy and decision making processes.

Jyoti Mukherjee (also known by his stage name Alex Pinder) has worked in the performing arts for more than twenty years, in Australia, England, Singapore, India and France. Although he has been to India many times, this is the first time he worked there. He is an actor, director, teacher. Recent credits in directing 'Sappho' and 'Plague' at the Stork Hotel, Melbourne.

Anne Riggs is a visual artist. She is currently undertaking a PhD at Victoria University in the Dept of Psychology (Wellness Promotion Unit) working on a project which explores the arts contribution to healing following Trauma, Grief and Loss.

Anne and Jyoti's work celebrates the joy of being a child, and the pleasure of learning.

Project website www.wooloo.org/communityart Anne's website web.mac.com/anneriqaas

The Cultural Development Network generates new ideas and new connections for governments, organisations, communities and individual practitioners around issues of cultural vitality. CDN works towards a society in which local communities, in all their diversity, have resources and support to make and express their own cultures. Join us!:

www.culturaldevelopment.net

