



# THEATRE KIMBERLEY



Annual Report | 2020

# Theatre Kimberley Board of Directors

Chair Lesley Marsh  
 Vice Chair Rebecca Laird  
 Secretary Robyn Stacey  
 Treasurer John Sawyer

## Board Members

Chris Hill	Phil Thompson
Justine Johnston	Venessa Poelina
Lily Chin	



TK would like to thank the following outgoing Board Directors:  
 Gay Messer, Lisa Russell, Kirsty Maley, and Enya Lippert, Youth Delegate.

## Theatre Kimberley is generously supported by



The Regional Arts Sector Investment is supported by the State Government of WA through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest.



Cover – *Te Kore: A World Beyond*, Worn Art Revamped 2020, featuring costumes by Esther Tavui (left front), Nuriah Jadai (centre back - bride and groom) and Maika Quilisadio (right front). Photo by Julia Rau.

# About Us

Theatre Kimberley exists to create high quality arts opportunities with and for Kimberley communities.

We work in a highly collaborative and responsive way, with community connections and engagement, key to the design and delivery of our programs and performances.

## Our Vision

Thriving, creative, connected Kimberley communities.

## Our Purpose

To create high quality arts opportunities that connect local people with artists and bring Kimberley stories to life. Our innovative programs and productions contribute to culture, creativity, growth and wellbeing.

## Our Priorities

Our Strategic Plan 2019 – 2024 identifies three priorities:



## Our Guiding Principles

Our work and decisions are guided by:

- Artistic and organisational excellence
- Community, creativity and connection
- Diversity
- Inclusion
- Collaboration
- Innovation

## Lesley Marsh, Chair of Theatre Kimberley



I acknowledge the *Tangata Whenua*, People of the land and respect their *Kaitiakitanga* Guardianship of *Papatuanuku*, Mother Earth and honour our *Turangawaewae*, the ground on which we all stand. I welcome and embrace our *Tupuna*, ancestors and walk beside them, from the past into the future. Haere mai, haere mai, haere mai.

I would like to thank Theatre Kimberley Board members for their support and constructive feedback over the past erratic year. I acknowledge and thank the Theatre Kimberley staff for their tremendous work ethic and continuous grant endeavours to maintain Theatre Kimberley as a respected, Kimberley, Arts organisation.

Theatre Kimberley (TK) recently undertook a strategic planning review to understand how its relationship with an ever-changing environment has affected the aims and objectives of the organisation. This investigation shows that Theatre Kimberley is aware that continuous improvement and self-analysis is the basis of a healthy and thriving organisation.

TK continues to move with the demands of a Covid conscious community. We are fortunate to live in a state that has seen less impact from Covid than the other states. Theatre Kimberley and the Broome community have been proactive in providing and supporting arts performance at markets, festivals and other social events as well as on-stage productions when allowable, including Shinju Matsuri, Worn Art Revamped, Splash Test Dummies, and YUCK Circus.

Theatre Kimberley is well placed to provide a professional plethora of talent to entertain and educate the many audiences that travel to and through the town of Broome and the Kimberley region. I am proud to be part of Theatre Kimberley and I know that its future is bright and very, very busy.

Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua: *'I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past'*

## Jael Johnson, Business Manager



Given the almost negligible impact of COVID-19 now on our daily lives, especially in the Kimberley, it's difficult to fathom its ongoing global impacts. 28 April 2021 saw the highest global rate of new cases (912,000) since the pandemic began. And this time last year, the potential impacts for all of us, were unpredictable and frightening. Shire borders were

closed, all Aboriginal communities were shut, we were all in lockdown, and all performances and group face-to-face activities cancelled. Thankfully, these measures protected most Australians, but the Arts industry was sent into turmoil, with many artists and arts workers immediately out of work.

Theatre Kimberley (TK) has always been a resilient organisation. Every year we face the challenges of securing funding to continue the reason we exist – to bring Kimberley locals together to learn, create and produce original productions that express local passions, ideas and stories. But March 2020 was hard. TK's Artistic program for 2020 was planned and underway, funding had been secured/applied for, and our budget approved by the TK Board.

So, the TK Team mobilised. We became experienced Zoom users. The TK Board and TK Staff regularly reviewed ever-changing scenarios which included how to support TK's artistic community. We were lucky, thanks to Jobkeeper, that TK was able to keep its staff, including Ali Clements, who started in February as an Arts Admin Assistant. Within weeks of lockdown, the Sandfly Circus was running online circus classes - *Sandflies Go Viral!* TK applied for COVID-19 relief funding and adapted quickly as restrictions changed. As these allowed, we continued to offer arts opportunities throughout the year, and in November, TK entertained our biggest ever audiences for Worn Art Revamped. Meredith Bell, TK's Artistic Director, writes about these exciting events, and more, in the following pages.

Government incentives and support, particularly Jobkeeper and Lotterywest COVID-19 funding, enabled TK to focus on how to remain relevant and sustainable post-Covid.

TK engaged *Spark Strategy*, who helped develop TK's current strategic plan, to assist us to:

- revise our strategic plan in light of COVID-19;
- develop an operational planning framework;
- develop a Theory of Change to help TK better assess its impact.

A key finding, and one common to many small to medium arts organisations, was that TK's reliance on short-term project-by-project funding makes it difficult to sustain adequate staff and organisational capacity, over the medium to long term. Theatre Kimberley is trying to address this and is making steady progress. Over the last few years, we have retained operational reserves, and secured new funding (including multi-year) to increase staff capacity. We also want to further diversify our sources of income. This issue however remains a sector-wide challenge, which was starkly highlighted by covid.

It is because of the continued generosity and support of ALL our supporters - our members, funders, donors, students, families, volunteers, partners, and the local communities in which we work, that TK survived 2020!

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Tate Family Foundation for its support over many years. We were thrilled to secure Regional Arts Sector Investment (RASI) multi-year funding 2021 – 2023 through Regional Arts WA. We were delighted to introduce Minister David Templeman to two Sandfly Circus Teenage Trainers when he met with TK during his visit to Broome in September for the Community Cabinet meeting. A huge thank you to all our stakeholders and funders for their generosity and flexibility when funded activities in 2020 were cancelled or postponed.

A special thank you to all TK Board members, particularly those who retired from the TK Board in 2020: Gay Messer, Lisa Russell, Kirsty Maley, and youth delegate, Enya Lippert. We wish you the very best.

TK didn't just survive! Despite an exhausting year of change and overwhelming challenges, TK has a super exciting artistic program planned for 2021 and 2022. All our annual favourite shows are back and a suite of exciting new arts opportunities on offer.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

In a year that could have crippled arts programming and community togetherness, Theatre Kimberley remained committed to maintaining connections and encouraging creativity.

## Meredith Bell, Artistic Director



As we reflect on 2020, we are incredibly grateful that Theatre Kimberley (TK) can report on numerous activities over the most universally challenging year of our time. In some ways, it's ironic that one of the most isolated parts of the world enjoyed greater freedom to gather than our metropolitan peers. Our COVID-19 restrictions were repealed sooner than most places, but during those difficult early months, TK still worked hard to consider new ways to maintain our company's vision, 'thriving, creative, connected Kimberley communities.'

One positive effect was new connections to the arts sector in ways we hadn't previously explored. While all of Australia was social distancing, it became easier for remote arts professionals to be in the same Zoom room – the factor of physical distance disappeared. TK began regular involvement with YCAN, Australia's Youth Circus Arts Network, which has been running for many years. Regular meetings are attended by the country's leaders in youth circus, including companies such as Circa, Circus Oz, Spaghetti Circus, and Flying Fruit Fly Circus. A pandemic makes us realise that all arts companies sometimes need support, and everyone has something to offer. Such strengthening of partnerships during this time meant that we can extend the benefits of these relationships to our community, including emerging and established artists and all our participants.

Another unintended consequence of COVID-19 was having the time to explore new ways of working, including new digital platforms for meetings and administration. Whilst it's often so hard to make time to explore new ways to manage systems, the requirements of working through restrictions pushed us to try more in the digital space.

In the meantime, we kept working to deliver pandemic-proof programming and planning for the future. *Sandflies Go Viral*, our online circus class program, offered a whole range of specialised circus skills at reduced class fees and allowed our participants to stay connected with circus peers. During Covid, we confirmed major Australia Council funding for *Te Kore*, which gave us all something to look forward to. Fortunately, *Te Kore's* many development components and performances went off under near-normal circumstances. This highlight of our rocky year employed 31 artists and arts workers, included the creative participation of another 150 adults, youth and children, and entertained over 1000 audience members.

## January 2020 | WA Circus Festival Performance and International Training Project

Our Sandfly Circus team launched 2020 with another inspiring circus festival and masterclass training week hosted by Lunar Circus in Karridale. This uniquely WA festival, held in a paddock in the state's southwest, is a great incubator for emerging circus artists and other performance enthusiasts. Keen children, youth, and adults have the opportunity to train alongside extraordinary artists and watch them perform at nightly cabarets and during the public festival. It's a great place to meet, mix, and collaborate – with no boundaries between performance disciplines or experience levels.

The Act-Belong-Commit Sandfly Circus took a group of 13 training project participants and worked through the masterclass week with our 2019 visiting circus directors, Ken Fanning and Angelique Ross, to adapt our major Broome show, *Circus Rabble* for the festival stage. We played to a full house in one of the festival's largest venues, the Lollipop BigTop.



Act-Belong-Commit Sandfly Circus performance of *Circus Rabble* at the 2020 WA Circus Festival. Photo by Georgia Deguara.



Young Sandfly participant, Amber Brew (L), learns from hat juggling master, Haggis McLeod during the International Training Project. Photo by Meredith Bell.



Sandfly trainer, Eleanor Brew (L), practices tumbling instruction with Enya Lippert under the watchful eye of acrobat, Rowan Thomas. Photo by Meredith Bell.

### March 2020 | Train the Trainer Weekend with Rowan Thomas

In February, Sandfly Circus classes resumed in Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre (BRAC) and our annual train-the-trainer weekend was held in March. Little did we know how quickly our annual program would be altered. In the last allowable week of BRAC activities pre-COVID-19, we welcomed home Sandfly graduate, Rowan Thomas, to lead the trainers' training weekend. Given the impending changes, it was a great opportunity for the training team to gather as a group. The main focus areas were clowning and acrobatics. After two full days of working hard and laughing a lot (Rowan is a great clown, after all!), we said goodbye to face-to-face exchanges for the term.

### April 2020 | Sandflies Go Viral

The Sandfly Circus leadership team did an inspiring job of rallying to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions. Following several brainstorming and trial teaching sessions, we developed a large suite of online circus class offerings, with a particular focus on skill areas that are safe and practical to teach remotely. Of particular concern was how to support the positive mental and physical health of our circus community,



Giving online a go – circus participant, Jonni Ockerby checks in during a trial Sandflies Go Viral class. Photo by Helen Ockerby.

at a time of potentially unprecedented isolation and chronic boredom. Skill specialities included poi, hula hoops, handstands, juggling, and diabolo. One silver lining of the challenging restrictive months was the return to Broome of some of our talented circus graduates. With high-level skills to offer trainers and students, Crystal Stacey and Reuben Pedlar were an integral part of our *Sandflies Go Viral* development and teaching team.

### July 2020 | Covid Clowns Creative Development & Performances

As life slowly returned to normal, we combined good COVID-19 protocols with humour and an opportunity for performance. TK Board member and Broome Courthouse Markets stallholder, Justine Johnston, approached TK with a creative idea to help the markets' management meet their COVID-19 safety requirements. The resulting Covid Clowns was a small clowning ensemble of Sandfly students who developed a repertoire of performance material around social distancing, sanitising, and politician press conferences. The cheery and colourful crew brightened up the markets and other local events from July to September.



Covid clowns before a Broome Courthouse Markets performance. Photo by Paul Bell.



Chris Hill's punchy logo for online circus classes developed during Covid.



The youngest Sandflies celebrate their performance with trainer, Franque Batty (R) at the Act Belong Commit Sandfly Circus outdoor show, *Circus on the Fly*. Photo by Abby Murray.

## September 2020 | *Circus on the Fly*

During much of 2020, it was hard to imagine the possibility of gathering in groups, let alone performing to a large audience. However, with the WA government cautiously lifting restrictions as borders stayed closed, we were soon back on track to some of the dry season gatherings we always look forward to. Shinju Matsuri resumed plans for its Jubilee festival, and with little coaxing, the Sandfly leadership team agreed to push into Term 3 with show development as a top priority. Given the limited budget and short lead time, *Circus on the Fly* seemed a fitting title for the show.

The free daytime show was performed twice over two days at Town Beach North, on the recently developed Town Beach precinct, a grassy area with a striking view of Roebuck Bay. For the first time, we erected our free-standing aerial tripod rig for a public performance.

## September 2020 | Dragonfly Outreach Project at Beagle Bay

With many Aboriginal communities still closed due to COVID-19, we were delighted to have the opportunity to work with Sacred Heart School at Beagle Bay. Even more so than for town kids, life in the remote communities was particularly challenging, with families unable to travel for funerals and other important gatherings. With community permissions in place, TK sent circus artist, Ruth Battle, and returned Bangarra dancer, Tara Gower, to lead the project. The resulting performance combined circus and dance beautifully, weaving in aerial apparatus, acrobatics, and the all-time children's favourite – mini-tramp!



Tara Gower captivates a class at Beagle Bay's Sacred Heart school on their first day of dance and circus workshops. Photo by Meredith Bell.



Yiramalay student, Jirrwirly Jeffries and lead artist, Jacky Cheng stop to celebrate their hard work during *Binarri.awarra Jurali ngingi* workshops at Yiramalay School. Photo by Greg Nichols.

## October 2020 | *Binarri.awarra Jurali ngingi - Dragonfly Outreach Project at Yiramalay*

In anticipation of TK's upcoming *Te Kore Worn* Art Revamped production, Yiramalay Studio School pledged their interest for a costume-design residency at the Leopold Ranges campus. Over the month of October, Broome-based paper artist, Jacky Cheng, and her partner, Greg Nichols, led the residency, providing an exciting opportunity for senior students and staff to explore new artforms and creation stories from their country. The project was called *Binarri.awarra Jurali ngingi*, meaning "let's all learn from the past" in Bunuba language.

Jacky encouraged exploratory play with a wide variety of recycled materials. She and Greg created a workspace at Yiramalay that was always available for participants, any hour of the day. Their generous and supportive energy was widely appreciated and yielded great artistic results.

Teacher Mary Zbierski-West noted:

*The creative process at play in the artist-in-residence project Binarri.awarra Jurali ngingi appeared to start with a humble piece of paper being folded, yet there is so much more embedded in it... The challenges of trying something new came with the freedom to experiment with unfamiliar materials and see where it took us. Some people were inspired to play with colour and form, while others were swept away with the grand scale... Everyone benefited from the enthusiasm and guidance that our artists-in-residence lavished on us, elevating those humble elements and finessing them into wearable wow-able garments.*

The commitment by the school was remarkable, with students, mentors and teachers working individually as well as collaboratively to complete the highly detailed works. For the final week of show development, Yiramalay brought 11 students and mentors to Broome, to rehearse several scenes of the show as puppeteers and models for their striking creations. The remainder of the school then made the 400km trek to Broome to support them as audience members on opening night.

## November 2020 | *Te Kore: A World Beyond*

There couldn't have been a better finale to 2020. Our fourth biannual Worn Art Revamped event was a dazzling 3-show sell-out at the Broome Civic Centre, incorporating dynamic elements of design, dance, circus, puppetry, and music in a story about Broome through the geological eras. *Te Kore* was written and directed by Broome-based Maori artist, Lesley Marsh, with support from Perth theatre-maker, Claudia Alessi, and TK Artistic Director, Meredith Bell. The production reflected Broome's rich multi-cultural background and unique placement along WA's Dinosaur Coast, arguably Australia's richest dinosaur trackways.

The Broome Dinosaur Coast Management Group (DCMG) provided inspiration and the most up-to-date scientific information regarding local dinosaurs. The DCMG had recently commissioned a remarkable suite of stunning graphic imagery, created by Croatian paleoartist, Damir G. Martin, reflecting the latest research. Some of these remarkable images of Cretaceous-era flora and fauna were incorporated into *Te Kore*, both as reference images for a giant sauropod puppet (designed by Gwen Knox) and as projections for the set itself.

Perth puppet artist and theatre-maker, Karen Hethey, worked with DCMG to provide free dinosaur puppet workshops to Broome children. She then led the resulting student ensemble in rehearsals and on stage to bring these pint-sized Anthropocene terrors to life.

An enormous amount of local talent was woven into the creation of *Te Kore*. Participating local arts and cultural partner groups included: Yiramalay Studio School, WASAMBA Carnival Drummers, Big MAMA productions, Nagula Jarndu Art Centre, Broome Performing Arts Co-op, Jaime Jackett Music, the Act Belong Commit Sandfly Circus, Filipino, Samoan and Maori cultural groups, and the Broome Library. Wearable art works came from Broome, Bidyadanga, Yiramalay and Mandurah.



Broome artist, Gwen Knox, introduces young performers to her sauropod in the making. Photo by Phil Thompson.



One of Damir G. Martin's flattened 360 degree images of Broome sauropods, used to inform and inspire *Te Kore* works. Image courtesy of the Dinosaur Coast Management Group.



Karen Hethey leads young dinosaur puppeteers on stage in *Te Kore: A World Beyond*. Photo by Julia Rau.



Filipino community members perform a traditional dance in *Te Kore: A World Beyond*. Photo by Julia Rau.



First time Broome performer Taezha Councillor shines on stage. Photo by Julia Rau.



Yawuru artist, Tara Gower, dances with Yiramalay performers during *Te Kore: A World Beyond*. Photo by Julia Rau.



*Te Kore* models pose in locally designed wearable artworks following a sold-out performance. Photo by Phil Thompson.

# Financial Summary 2020



## Statement of Financial Position

As at 31st December 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	414,736	250,890
Trade & Other Receivables	23,571	7,046
	<b>438,306</b>	<b>257,936</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	20,825	23,748
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>459,131</b>	<b>281,684</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	56,575	22,291
Provision for employee entitlements	18,099	14,924
Unexpended funds	171,552	74,877
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>246,227</b>	<b>112,094</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>212,904</b>	<b>169,590</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Accumulated Surplus	162,904	169,590
<b>Operations Reserve</b>	<b>50,000</b>	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>212,904</b>	<b>169,590</b>

Theatre Kimberley's independently audited 2020 full Annual Financial Statements are available on request.

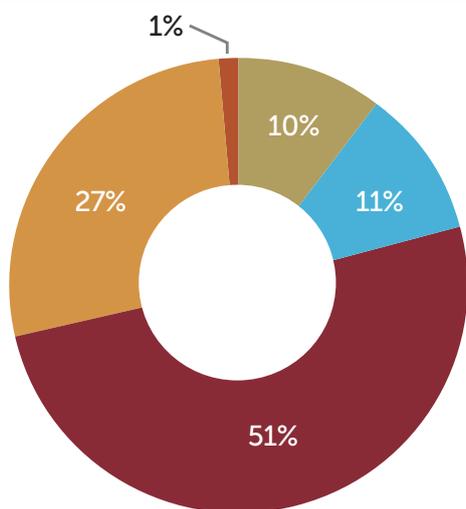
## Annual Audited Financial Statement

For the Year Ended 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>		
<b>Operating Revenue</b> (box office, class and client fees, fundraising)	82,596	115,358
<b>Funding</b>		
Government income	221,637	322,403
Philanthropy (carried forward to 2021)		37,500
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest	222	2,188
Sponsorship and donations	1,169	6,102
Other	22,859	19,572
Government Subsidies	134,544	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>463,028</b>	<b>491,123</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Production costs	43,587	62,250
Operating costs	44,966	49,798
Depreciation	4,870	6,260
Employment costs	211,969	161,261
Professional Fees	114,321	221,506
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>419,713</b>	<b>501,075</b>
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>43,314</b>	<b>2,048</b>
Operational Reserves	12,500	12,500
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>30,814</b>	<b>-10,452</b>

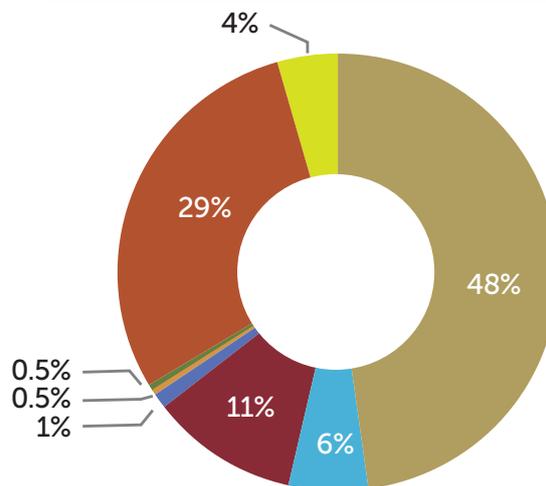
TK has an operational reserves target of \$12,500/year. If annual surplus is less than \$12,500, the difference will be deducted from cash at bank amount.

### TK Expenses 2020



- Production Costs
- Operating Costs
- Employment Costs
- Professional Fees
- Depreciation

### TK Income 2020



- Grant Income
- Box Office
- Class & Client Fees
- Fundraising
- Sponsorship, Donations & Interest
- Membership Fees
- Government Subsidies/Incentives
- Other

NB TK received philanthropic support of \$88,477 which will be carried forward to 2021

# TK Volunteers

Theatre Kimberley volunteers are integral to everything we do.

TK Board members volunteer their time throughout the year to oversee TK's finances, risk, compliance and governance requirements.

Community volunteers are our lifeblood. Our artistic programs and productions rely on their support in a variety of roles including: parent helpers, performers, models, admin support, front of house and bar staff, puppeteers, costume makers, photographers, backstage helpers, child wranglers.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU!!

SOME EXAMPLES OF TK VOLUNTEERS IN 2020	#	TOTAL HOURS
Sandfly Circus parent helpers	4	120
TK Board Members	11	90
Worn Art Preview	10	40
<i>Sandflies go Viral</i> online Circus	3	16
<i>Circus on the Fly</i> - Shinju Festival	11	25
Beagle Bay Outreach Project	8	24
Worm Art revamped <i>Te Kore</i>	33	285
Covid Clowns - Community Events	4	20
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>620</b>

## 2020 Outcomes (despite Covid!)



Total audience numbers:

3124



Sandfly Circus weekly & online class

146



Total participants – projects and shows:

667



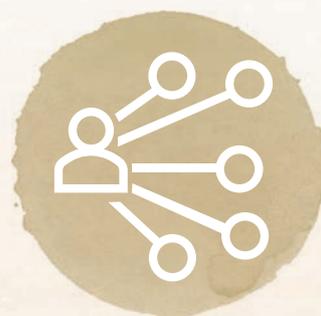
Total number of paid artists:

92



Number of TK staff retained:

4



Remote Aboriginal Community locals involved:

186



# Theatre Kimberley 2021

TK looks forward to returning to an exciting full annual program in 2021 – from dazzling stage productions to fantastic remote outreach residencies – we can't wait to see you there!

## Big Country Puppets

Big Country Puppets outreach projects involve arts residencies in remote Kimberley communities which celebrate First Nations' language and culture and the local natural environment. TK artists work with Aboriginal Rangers and local schools to create co-devised theatre shows, incorporating giant and small puppets and local languages.

## Dragonflies in Beagle Bay

Theatre Kimberley's Act Belong Commit Dragonfly Outreach program takes performance skills to community schools and works intensively to teach children skills that are showcased in an end-of-project performance for the whole community. Following on from great successes there in 2019 and 2020, we are delighted to be returning to Beagle Bay in July with our partners from the Flying Fruit Fly Circus. Other Dragonfly outreach locations for 2021 are still to be confirmed.

## Bust Out Cabaret is Back!

One of Broome's favourite nights out – for performers and audiences alike – will be back with a bang in 2021. Theatre Kimberley's Bust Out Cabaret sees local community performers join professional cabaret artists for 2 nights of music, circus, dance, comedy and more! Don't miss out as these shows often sell out.

## Sandflies and Dummies make a splash in Broome!

This year's annual circus show will once again delight Broome locals and visitors of all ages with 2 nights of high-flying feats and thrilling circus antics. Building on a March residency with the Splash Test Dummies, the Sandfly team will welcome back the Dummies ensemble to work with our local artists to develop an exciting new show.

Please get in touch if you'd like to know more about our programs or productions, and how you can get involved. We'd love to hear from you.

## And do come to our shows!

You will have a fantastic time AND support a local arts organisation that produces professional performances that are inspired by life in the Kimberley.'

Donations and memberships are always appreciated. TK has tax-deductible status.

[www.theatrekimberley.org.au](http://www.theatrekimberley.org.au)

Big Country Puppets  
Mulan and Yakanarra Communities

Dragonfly Outreach  
Beagle Bay  
26 July - 13 Aug

Bust Out Cabaret  
20 & 21 August  
Convention Centre

Sandfly Circus Show with Dummies Corp  
10 & 11 September  
BRAC

**THEATRE**  
KIMBERLEY



Tel: +61 8 9193 5658

PO Box 2890 Broome WA 6725

Office 6 Lotteries House

Cable Beach Road Broome WA 6726



theatrekimberley

[www.theatrekimberley.org.au](http://www.theatrekimberley.org.au)