

**BUS
STOP
FILMS**

INCLUSIVE FILMMAKING

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Every year since 2018, the year I became Chair of Bus Stop Films, I am encouraged and amazed by the way our dynamic organisation goes from strength to strength. 2022 was no different! Despite the continuing challenges of the pandemic, Bus Stop Films has continued to grow and thrive, shining through with optimism, determination and kindness.

In 2022 we saw three new locations join our Accessible Film Studies Program – the Blue Mountains, Melbourne and Katoomba - with a just over 160 students learning through our Program across the year. The students, together with their amazing tutors and support workers, achieved so much - growing in confidence and capacity through creativity and community.

We were delighted to have our Co-Founder, Genevieve Clay-Smith, return to her roots to teach our Katoomba class, and it was only fitting that her class film, *Head Over Wheels*, included another high achieving and very talented professional, Dylan Alcott AO, in his on screen debut.

Our brilliant producer, Dianna, led the team in producing 14 high quality and very entertaining films, showcasing the vibrancy and creativity of the students' experience, maturity and imagination. Each of the films showcased a unique concept, expertly and inclusively brought to the screen. The end of year showcase events bookended a wonderful year with over 1000 people joining us nationally, as we celebrated our students and their families, staff, cast and crews and our brilliant network of supporters.

The team worked across the year to ensure we continue to expand with new locations planned and established in Launceston and Perth to roll out in 2023. These new sites were generously supported by KnightFrank and Mineral Resources reflecting our strong focus on connecting with like-minded organisations with a keenness to support programs and projects which enact strong social, cultural and employment outcomes for their communities.

Of course, Bus Stop's success and achievements are the combined efforts of a brilliant team. I offer my sincere thanks to the Bus Stop Films Board: Dianna La Grassa, Jacqui Attard, Brian Maguire, Genevieve Clay-Smith, Emily Dash, Kate Aitken and Jennifer Collins and our Company Secretary, Fiona Stuart, who provide strong governance, skills and experience together with networks that support our growth. We are ably supported by Kallistene Vihas, who gives her time to support the board and the bus. And all great teams are lead by great leaders and our CEO, Tracey Corbin-Matchett, has again shown that she is the greatest. Her high ambition, commitment and focus on kindness has benefited us all.

Most importantly, our success is a reflection of a team of staff who have a passion for the ethos of our work and a commitment to the impact we strive for. We are more than a film school, more than a production company – at Bus Stop Films, we are global leaders for social change through the medium of screen content.

As we look to 2023 and all that is ahead for us, our students, staff and our broader community, I am confident that the impact of our work will gain new audiences, new hearts to connect with and new minds to change.

Peter Tonagh
Chair



A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2022 was another year of growth, connection and impact for the Bus. While Covid19 still made its presence felt, we managed to keep forging ahead. We traveled across the country with new programs kicking off in Melbourne, Adelaide and the Blue Mountains and we worked with new partners to set up additional locations for 2023 in Perth with Edith Cowan University, supported by Mineral Resources and Launceston with TasTAFE supported by Knight Frank Tasmania. It is brilliant to see our Program growing, taking the filmmaking, friendship and capacity building it delivers to new locations, new students and their families.



A highlight for the year was to take our work to New York and Canada, escalating our advocacy work on a global scale. In New York, myself, our COO Dianna and Student Ambassador Nathan represented the screen industry among the dynamic and diverse Australian delegation attending the 15th Conference of States Parties (COSP) at the United Nations on The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It was an honour to meet Australian Consul General to New York, Nick Griener AC and share our work, at a screening event hosted at the consulate. A huge thank you to the Consulate's amazing staff including Karina Soltyszewski, Deputy Consul General and Jake Swinson, Cultural Affairs Adviser for helping us share our work in the Big Apple.

Another stand out for me, was to represent the screen industry at the Disability Royal Commission. Among tears of pride at our brave and confident students Breanna and Evie who also gave evidence, was a reflection of the importance of our work, and the power and impact of the screen industry to enact change and achieve equality. I stand committed to my determination to have policy makers consider the limitations of existing employment supports in relation to disability employment and the screen industry.

Getting to know the students and their families filled my heart and I shed many tears ... not of sadness but tears full of joy to be part of their lives. I am further full of gratitude to our brilliant team, with more than 55 people now working to keep the bus on the road. Guiding an organisation which stands both in the disability sector and the screen industry and thus requires advocacy, creativity and business minds to steer the bus. And this guidance came through from our amazing board of directors. Thank you especially to Peter Tonagh, for supporting me to lead such a brilliant organisation. It's a huge job and thankfully, a job I love.

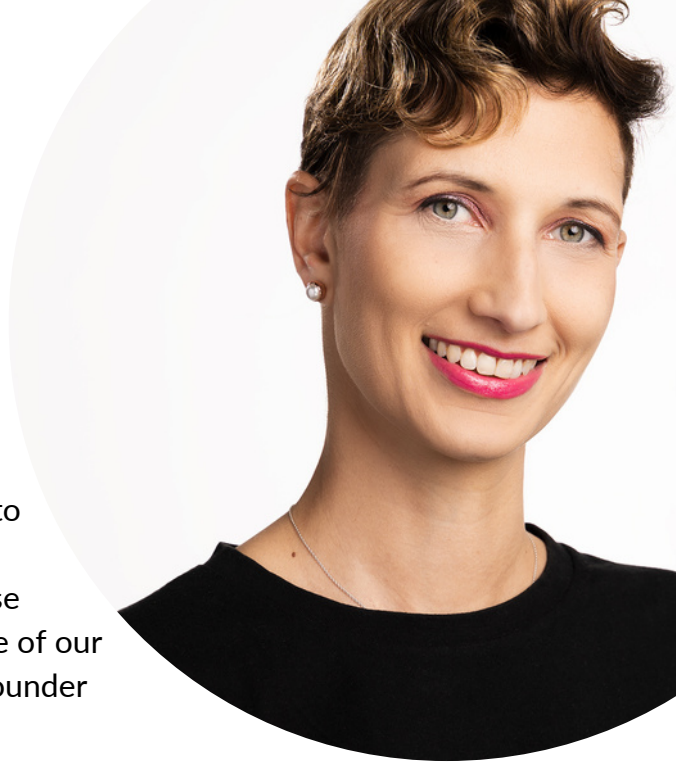
The year ahead for Bus Stop Films will see us deliver more films, more jobs and more impact. With everything we do, wrapped in our values - Excellence, Resilience, Respect, Authenticity and Equality. As I wrap on 2022, a final thanks to my family, Greg, Aurora, Sage and Zahn. Running the Bus is a team sport and these four are my MVP's.

With Kindness,

TCM



A MESSAGE FROM THE COO



Wow, wow, wow! What an incredible year 2022 was for the Bus. We saw 14 incredibly inclusively made films travel the country to our now national showcase screening to over 800 people. We brought on three new locations, Adelaide, Blue Mountains and Melbourne bringing with these new locations some new emerging filmmakers but also some of our long standing filmmaking friends, including the original co-founder Genevieve Clay-Smith.

We were incredibly fortunate enough to build our team and welcome so many new faces to our program. We launched Bus Stop Employment, ringing in a new era for the Bus as we continue to build bridges, blaze trails, increase confidence and capacity of the film industry. This area is being led by Sarah Jane Johnson and I am confident that it is in very good hands.

Operationally we've remained lean and have focused on improving our systems, working towards a mobile application and building our service and experience of our students and community. We welcomed some new additions to the organisation including our new Office Manager, Elise and prepared to bring Monica Power out of the classrooms for the first time in 14 years. She'll now be bringing her skills nationally and we can't wait.

Looking ahead 2023 continues to be an opportunity for growth for the bus and I for one am incredibly grateful to be part of this organisation and community. It never ceases to amaze me all of the opportunities and changes that can be made when we just say 'yes!'

Here's to all we've achieved and all we will. Thank you for being part of our journey.

With thanks,

Dianna



BSF BOARD

Our board is a collection of talented creatives, business minds and hearts who keep the Bus on track with good governance, strategic direction and impact. We are extremely grateful for their time, expertise and kindness.

BSF Board as at December 2022:

Peter Tonagh – Chair

Brian Maguire – Treasurer

Jacqui Attard – Board Member

Emily Dash – Board Member

Kate Aitken – Board Member

Genevieve Clay-Smith – Board Member

Dianna La Grassa – Board Member

Jennifer Collins - Board Member

Fiona Stuart - Company Secretary

Will Milthorpe - Board Observer

The Board is supported by the dedication and fantastic skills of Kalistene Vihas.



This year we again took part in the Board Observership Program, which supports emerging leaders to gain an understanding of the machinery of boards whilst contributing their time and experience to an organisation. We were delighted to have Will Milthorpe join us across 2022.

BSF ADVISORY BOARD

Bus Stop Films is grateful for the sage advice and support from our Advisory Board. They provide a great sounding board for ideas and strategy to connect our projects and programs into the disability and screen industry. The board consists of Paralympian, aerial artist and disability advocate Paul Nunnari together with screen and media executive Courtney Gibson and our CEO Tracey Corbin-Matchett.



OUR PATRONS

Bus Stop Films is delighted to have the continued support of *His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Ret'd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia* and *Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley*. We are so grateful to our patrons who give their time to raise awareness of work through their roles.

It was wonderful to catch up with Their Excellencies during the National Games of the Special Olympics in Launceston, Tasmania and the Veterans Films Festival at AFTRS.



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

For many years Bus Stop Films has been represented at advocacy events by a trio of brilliant Student Ambassadors, Joni Campbell, Nathan Basha and Gerard O'Dwyer. This year, in recognition of our growth into new locations we added an additional five ambassadors, selected through a peer lead process to identify five exceptional students who uphold the Bus Stop Films values and show a strong commitment to the Program. Our new student ambassadors include Breanna Swan (Brisbane) Daniel Hodgson (Canberra) Audrey O'Connor and Ronan Soussa (Sydney) and Liam Vosu (Parramatta). During the year we brought the group together at our ShopFront Arts HQ for a session with famed facilitator Maz Farrelly.



TEAM WORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Our team in 2022 was as hard working and dynamic as ever. We added new members with Elise Mather jumping on board as our Office Administrator and we welcomed long time Bus Stop Films team member Sarah Jane Johnson into the role of General Manager of Bus Stop Employment.

We also added Kirstie Boerst on board, taking over from Nikoleta Minns as she headed off for parenting leave.



Our team tutors not only educate, they share their passion for the craft of filmmaking with our students. In 2022 our tutors brought so much to the classroom, guiding their students' creativity and capacity. A huge thanks to our 2022 tutors:

- Genevieve Clay-Smith
- Angela Blake
- Julian Neuhaus
- Martha Goddard
- Dan Sanguineti
- Ellen Britton
- Timothy Grubisic
- Veronica Wain
- Andrew Kavanagh
- Liv Satffieri
- Joanna Joy
- Rebecca Kirwan
- Duncan Ragg
- Grace Anderson
- Marcus Mackenzie.





Our support workers provide the students guidance in the classroom and on set. In 2022, we had a huge team of disability support workers, providing our students with an encouraging and supportive learning environment. Our team of support workers include:

Monica Power
Mathew Bing
Krittika Puhakka
Jessica Sherlock
Jennifer Price
Carol Scherret
Michelle Sutton
Kate Bobis
Oliver Wicks
Louise Barbon-Elliott

Sarah McCarthy
Lucky Chan
Joseph Palmer
Adi O'Hara
Rose Blackthorn
Suzanne Dunne
Joseph Neville
Campbell Vinson
Afolashade Sandra Nwaobi (Shade)

Webster Seade
Brendan Kearns
Helen Robertson
Harry Johnson
Trishna Khadka



EDUCATE



New stops for our Accessible Film Studies Program

In 2022 we saw three new locations and a number of new students join our program, with 160 students learning through our Program. The students attended classes in Sydney, Wollongong, Canberra, Parramatta, Brisbane and online plus new stops being added with Melbourne, Adelaide and the Blue Mountains. New locations meant getting to know new students and their families and welcoming them on board the bus. It was also so our amazing co-founder Genevieve Clay-Smith, back in the classroom, teaching our first Blue Mountains program.

Across the year we also prepared for new locations to be added in 2023, with Launceston and Perth getting ready to board the bus.



PROGRAM PARTNERS KEEPING THE BUS GOING



We couldn't do what we do with the support of our program partners. In 2022 we continued to deliver our Accessible Film Studies Program in partnership with the Australian Film TV and Radio School, Film Plus and Screen Canberra, University of Wollongong and Griffith Film School (Brisbane). We also added in new partnerships with RMIT University in Melbourne, UniSA in Adelaide, Western Sydney University (Parramatta) and The Blue Mountains Cultural Centre in Katoomba to deliver our 2022 classes.

AFTRS



RMIT
UNIVERSITY

University of
South Australia

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



SCREEN CANBERRA



BLUE MOUNTAINS
CULTURAL
CENTRE

Griffith UNIVERSITY
Griffith Film School
Queensland, Australia

LIVE LAB
SCREEN PRODUCTION - ANIMATION - GAMES

UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA



ACCESSIBLE ACTING PROGRAM

In 2022 we piloted an Accessible Acting Program in partnership with **Actors Centre Australia**, combining our inclusive filmmaking practice together with ACA's professional acting expertise. ACA's leading educators Troy Harrison and Franke Savage worked with Bus Stop Films acting talents Gerard O'Dwyer, Chris Bunton and Audrey O'Connor together with our Support and Engagement Manager, Monica Power, to develop a 10-week Accessible Acting Program in which young adults living with disability can learn the craft of acting in a fully accessible venue and in a supportive environment. The inclusively developed program, was designed by people living with disability for people with disability, and piloted via Bus Stop Films' student cohort. The Program offered participants creative and social connections via opening access to one of Australia's premiere acting schools to people living with disability.

The pilot program was a brilliant success and the performance showcase evening, where the students performed their scenes, was fantastic, a night that ended in rapturous applause. The Accessible Acting Program was funded by the Department of Human Services through a Social and Community Participation grant. The fee for service program will be rolled out again by ACA in 2023.

TAKE A LOOK AT THE PROGRAM IN THIS INCLUSIVELY MADE BEHIND THE SCENES DOCUMENTARY.



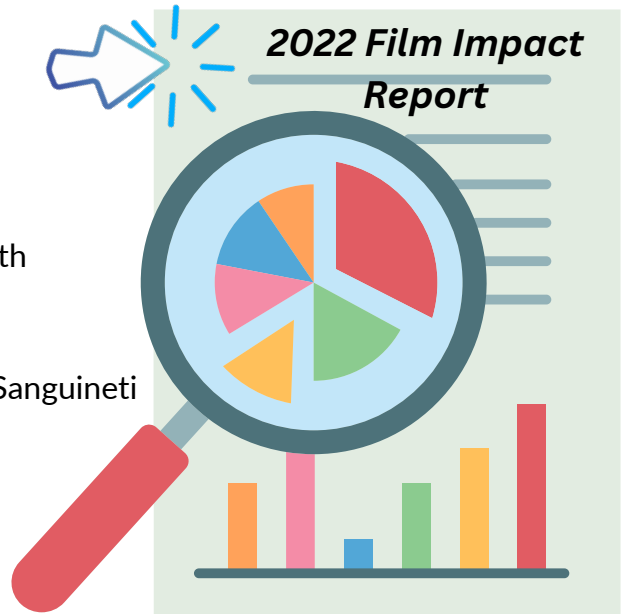
CREATE



Intersectional Inclusion Produces Amazing Films

Every year the films created through our Accessible Film Studies Program deliver a collection of dynamic, engaging and entertaining productions, each centered around the creative concepts from our students' imaginations. Our 2022 films were a brilliant catalog of 14 unscripted works, not surprisingly after the heaviness of the pandemic, no one wanted to explore real life! We had a one take rom com starring Australian of the Year and Wimbledon champion, Dylan Alcott AO, a queer teen wrap starring acclaimed actor and advocate Chloe Hayden, a western sci-fi featuring Colin Friels and Meyne Wyatt, a kitchen drama starring celebrity chef Miguel Maestre and much more. Our amazing in-house producer Dianna La Grassa produced the films with the assistance of Cyna Strachan. It was brilliant to again offer internships to students from both Griffith Film School and Western Sydney University during our productions. Our 2022 class film projects included:

1. Stomp - Directed by Marcus Mckenzie
2. Girl Coded - Directed by Grace Anderson
3. Mise en Place - Directed by Julian Neuhaus
4. Connections - Directed by Rebecca Kirwan
5. BandShe - Directed by Joanna Joy
6. Head Over Wheels - Directed By Geneveive Clay-Smith
7. Hell Yeah - Directed by Martha Goddard
8. Joie - Directed by Veronica Wain
9. Dungeons, Goblins and Broccoli - Directed by Daniel Sanguineti
10. Rat Bag - Directed by Andrew Kavanagh
11. The Art of Friendship - Directed by Liv Staffieri
12. Career Fight - Directed by Anglea Blake
13. Arcade - Directed by Tim Grubisic
14. Fences - Directed by Duncan Ragg



Watch Our Showreel Here



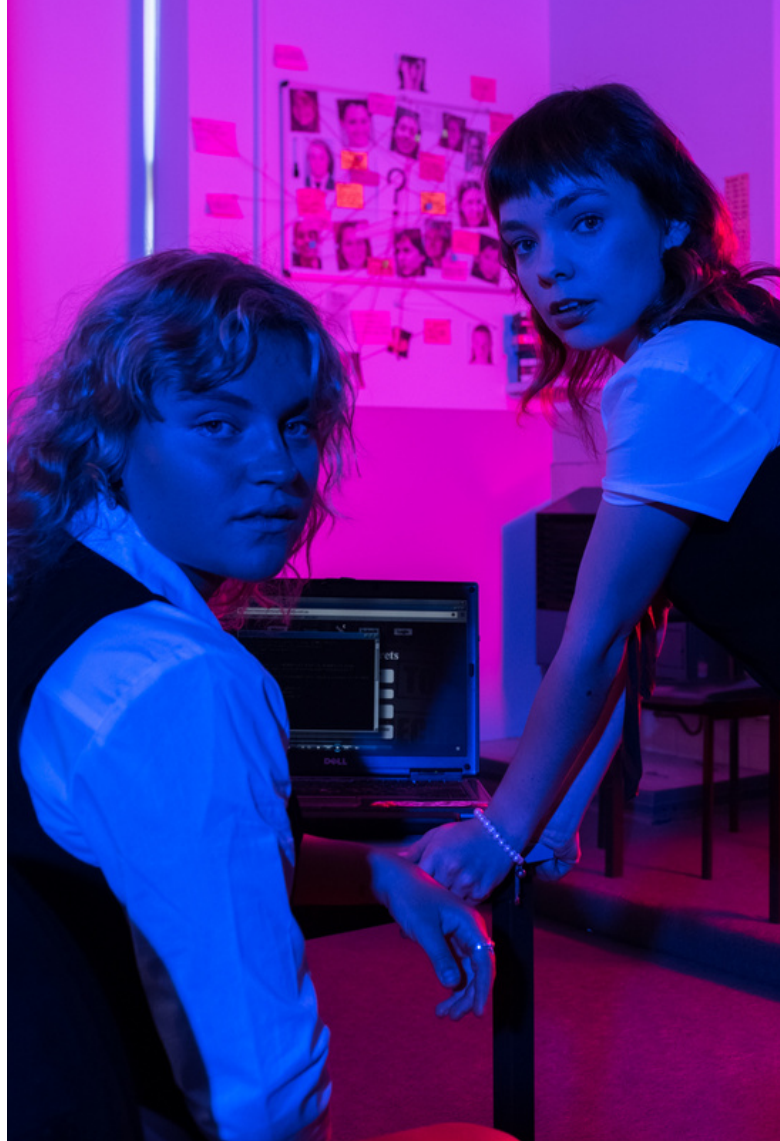
Other films we premiered in 2022 included **Overdue**, our micro budget film made through our pilot project with **Stellar Experiences**, which was directed by Julian Neuhaus. On Valentine's Day, we also released Valiant, our project made in partnership with **Northcott** disability service. Valiant is a short, educational film about building and maintaining healthy relationships and developing protective behaviour skills. Through four stories, VALIANT explores issues related to consent, sexuality and healthy relationships for people with disability.



Continuing our partnership in Mongolia

We also continued our partnership with the **Arts Council of Mongolia**, through the **We Can We Are Talented** project. With the support of a Cultural Diplomacy Grant from the **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**, we produced the film **Dancer**. The project included the input from over 20 Deaf and Hard of Hearing young people together with participants living with Down syndrome. Mongolian director Nomin Gantulga co-wrote the film with Genevieve Clay-Smith, who also produced the film, all the way from Australia. The film explores family relationships set against dance, music and deaf cultural identity. Dancer will premiere in 2023.





SHOWCASE ON TOUR

This year we took the bus on tour. Our amazing Marketing and Event Coordinator Serena, created a suite of dynamic and inclusive events for our end of year student showcases. These events are a way to celebrate the work of our students with their families and say thank you to the cast, crews and supporters who work to bring our films to life. Over 1000 people came to our showcase events across 5 states, with our Sydney showcase attracting a whopping audience of over 500 people. A true celebration of inclusion.

Thank you to Woolworths Group for their support as 2022 showcase sponsor and for Coles for supporting our Melbourne showcase event. Each of our events included Auslan interpretation by Sign Hear.



FESTIVAL SCREENINGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY & AROUND THE WORLD

In 2022 film festivals were slowly waking up from the pandemic shift to online screenings. Our films again connected to audiences around the world. In 2022 our films screened in over 40 events in Japan, Canada, France, UK, Germany and in various cities across the USA and Australia. Our films delighted the audiences and it was brilliant to share our films and our message of inclusion around the world.



ADVOCATE

Resourcing the industry and advocating for change... around the world!

In 2022 we took our work and advocacy all the way to the United Nations in New York. Our team of CEO Tracey, COO Dianna and student Ambassador Nathan Basha, traveled to New York to attend the 15th Conference of States Parties (COSP) at the United Nations on The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). We were part of a delegation including Down Syndrome Australia and Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO) attending the civil society aspects. Bus Stop Films attended the conference around our support of people with disability to gain work in the screen industry. In particular, supporting Nathan Basha to gain experience working in the screen industry as a young person living with Down syndrome and how our work is addressing a key conference theme of “Economic empowerment and entrepreneurship of persons with disabilities.”

While in NY we were delighted to be hosted by the Australian Consulate in NY for a screening of our work and Q and A on inclusion, and a session of our Inclusion in Action. The team also attended the Tribeca Film Festival and Nathan was thrilled to meet Scott Ferguson, Executive Producer of Succession and famed comedian and filmmaker Ray Romano. Thank you to the Count Charitable Foundation for supporting Nathan to travel to New York.

After New York, Tracey and Dianna traveled to Dianna’s hometown of Toronto, Canada. While there they delivered a screening of our films for representatives from Telefilm Canada, Accessible Media Institute and the Australian High Commission. Lots of connections were made and new partnerships were seeded.



REPRESENTING THE SCREEN INDUSTRY AT THE DISABILITY ROYAL COMMISSION

The Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability is a royal commission established in 2019 and continued to have active hearings across 2022. Late in the year Bus Stop Films CEO Tracey Corbin-Matchett was called to give evidence at the Commission about her experience and the work of Bus Stop Films, in creating a more fair and just world through filmmaking, advocacy and employment. Tracey gave evidence on Public Hearing 31: Vision for an inclusive Australia. Also giving evidence was Bus Stop Films students Breanna Swan and Evie Atkins, who spoke after Dylan Alcott AO and Chloe Hayden. Bus Stop Films was the only screen industry organisation invited to give evidence at the Commission, which will inform the way people with disabilities are better supported in education, health, employment and in society in general.

You can watch their evidence here

WATCH VIDEO



UNSTEREOTYPE ALLIANCE

Bus Stop Films is thrilled to have been appointed as an ally to the Australian chapter of the Unstereotype Alliance. **The Unstereotype Alliance** is a global advertising industry-led initiative convened by UN Women which unites advertising industry leaders, decision-makers and creatives to end harmful stereotypes in advertising. Something our work in #inclusivefilmmaking closely aligns to.

The Unstereotype Alliance works to affect positive cultural change by using the power of advertising to help shape perceptions. Members collaborate to help create a world without stereotypes, empowering people in all their diversity, whether that be related to gender, race, class, age, ability, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, language or education.



GOING GLOBAL WITH UNILEVER

In 2022 together with our sister company **Taste Creative** we worked with the global company **Unilever**, to support it's mission to make advertising production more accessible and inclusive for people living with disability, driving equity for those behind the camera. Unilever has pledged to ensure that all productions over €100k will include at least one person with a disability as part of the production crew.

As part of this commitment, Unilever partnered with Bus Stop Films and Taste Creative to create an open-source Inclusive Production Toolkit, empowering production companies and creative agencies across the globe with best practices and principles to provide the most appropriate support to people living with disability behind the camera. **[You can learn more about this exciting project HERE.](#)**



The Commercially Inclusive Toolkit

A Guide for Authentic Inclusion Behind the Camera

This document belongs to Unilever but may be used by other organisations in advertising and marketing in order to improve inclusion. Please note this document is intended to provide help and guidance and does not amount to legal advice.



AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

In 2022, we won 12 amazing awards. They reflect the wonderful skills and talents of our organisation and the power and impact of our films and organisation. Notable awards include:

Our Accessible Film Studies Program in Canberra winning an ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Award for Inclusion in Education and Training. Our amazing Student Ambassador Daniel accepted the award on behalf of his class at the awards gala attended by our Chairman Peter Tonagh and tutor Ellen Britton.

What Was It Like?'s triple win - Best Documentary, Best Film and Audience Award at Australian Women's Film Festival.

Groundhog Night, being voted Best Film by the audience at the Australian Screen Forum screening at the Asia Society New York and in Paris.



FACILITATE INTRODUCING BUS STOP EMPLOYMENT

Our work in opening up employment opportunities and pathways in the screen industry reached a peak in 2022 with over 80 employment opportunities facilitated by our team. The jobs included roles nationally of the Feros Care “Fearless Films” project with Ironbark Films, a TVC with Unilever for Rexona and the Dylan Alcott Foundation and Henrietta Graham, an amazing student of our Melbourne program landing a role on Neighbours. Each employment placement was supported by our team and adds to the experience of our participants and the creative careers.

In late 2022, with the assistance of a Westpac Inclusive Employment grant and The Snow Foundation, we were able to employ Sarah Jane Johnson as the General Manager of **Bus Stop Employment**. A dedicated business unit with the organisation to focus and grow our work in supporting people with disabilities gain work in the screen industry and build greater confidence in the sector to employ this diverse workforce. SJ’s experience in disability employment support, commercial production and passion for inclusion make her perfectly placed to lead this important part of our work.



OPERATE

We thank our amazing supporters, who provide resources and expertise to programs and projects: Panavision, Actors Centre Australia, Paige-Harrison, Westpac, Ashurst, The Sherry Hogan Foundation, The Snow Foundation, PwC, Cushman + Wakefield, Accenture, Realise Business, Blue Mountains Cultural Trust, Screenrights Cultural Fund, Optus, KnightFrank, Woolworths Group, Mineral Resources and Creative Plus Business. We're so grateful for their continued support and assistance to help us to continue to change lives and minds through film. The NDIS continues to support our students to attend the Program with resourcing from the plans.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FOR 2022

In continuing challenging times we maintained a reasonable financial position. In 2022, our revenue increased by 37% from \$861,107 in 2021 to \$1,366,663 in 2022. Against this our costs to run the Programs and organisation increased from \$767,544 in 2021 to \$1,386,161 in 2022, resulting in a loss of \$19,498 at the end of the year. The impact of the pandemic on our ability to fundraise very much affected this result. On the back of this position we have reviewed our pricing and consultancy services to improve the sustainability of the services we provide and ensure a stronger financial position for future years.

Thank you to our kind and cautious Treasurer Brian Maguire for his dedicated and skilled management of our finances and to Gregory Richards and his team at Page, Harrison & Co for their management of our audit requirements and assisting us through tax related issues in 2022. We also give thanks to Johnny Gebrael, our bookkeeper for making sure everyone is paid on time. A copy of our full financial report can be found on the ACNC website.





