

8.9.11

To The Senate Inquiry Regarding The ABC programming decisions.

I am an artist with 30 years experience in community cultural development, visual and performing arts. I feel very upset that arts programming is being cut by the ABC. I feel there is little on television that I can relate to or be inspired by.

There are a million cooking shows, sports shows and home renovating shows on television, not to mention news shows. Why can't the ABC give us some great arts shows, not take away some of the small amount of them that we do have.

There is so little arts related television on Australian TV. It seems Hollywood gossip and movie review are the best most TV programmers can provide when it comes to the arts and culture yet there are so many great arts projects being created across Australia every day. Please document them.

I would like to see programs produced that take us into artists' studios so we can learn about the artwork being created and exhibited in Australia and New Zealand and the lives of those who choose to travel the path of an artist.

I would love to see programs produced that showcase community art projects across Australia and New Zealand too.

While I'm dreaming, how about an arts focus in the news each night, just like we've had for sport since ever.

I'm not talking about anything new here, ABC and SBS have had some great arts docos and shows in the past, but where are they now? How popular was the series 'Choir of Hardknocks'? Or 'Boomtown' on SBS, another gem.

I recommend the inquiry read the Throsby report by The Australia Council into the importance of the arts in Australia, but if you don't have time, check out this link to a quick 1 minute video 'More than bums on seats' by The Australia Council.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLcqFljq_IY

The Arts is not elitist or pretentious, (according to the above link- Australia Council) in the year (09-10) 41% of Australians created art- that's 7 million artmakers, and 4.5 million attended a theatre performance.

Please don't stop making ABC documentaries and programs, don't just buy what already has been made from the tv show supermarket, we don't want more crap on tv, we want high quality fabulous ABC produced tv shows to watch please.