



Submission No 38

Inquiry into Australia's relationship with India as an emerging world power

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AusArts**

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AusArts India

AusArts India is a two year cultural program focused on consolidating Australia's presence at major festivals of music, film, literature and visual arts. Presented by the Australian Government, through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australia International Cultural Council, the program offers a snapshot of contemporary Australia and presents the opportunity to celebrate the wide-ranging and vibrant relationship between Australia and India. Key partners include the Australia-India Council (AIC), the Australia Council and the Australian Film Commission (AFC).

AusArts India is designed raise appreciation throughout India of Australia's cultural sophistication and diversity, consolidate institution-to-institution links with a view to longer-term co-operation and exchange, to project Australia as an economically successful and innovative trading nation and provide a platform to engage government and decision makers to promote Australia's foreign and trade policy.

The first stage of the program, held from November 2005 to February 2006, focused solely on film and literature. The second phase from November 2006 to March 2007 has a strong focus on performing and visual arts and will see Australia as focus country at several leading Indian festivals, as well as a return to identified film and literature festivals including the Kolkata Book Fair where Australia is Focus country.

Film

The second stage of the program will commence in November 2006 with an Australian showcase at three film festivals: the Kolkata Film Festival (10-17 November); the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) (23 November – 3 December) and the Chennai International Film Festival (17-25 December). Three Australia films will also be screened during the Mumbai Festival (14-28 January).

Participation at these key film festivals will provide Indian audiences with an opportunity to experience a broad selection of contemporary Australian film. As few Australian films are distributed in India through normal market channels, a presence at these festivals presents a platform to engage audiences to be more understanding and appreciative of Australian society as well as to promote Australia's cultural diversity, tolerance and excellence in cultural output.

Factors taken into consideration in identifying festivals include:

- International profile of the festival
- History of Australian films screened at previous festivals
- Festival support network and organisational structure
- Opportunities for a focus/dedicated Australian program
- Opportunities for additional activities including seminars and master classes.

Films to be screened at the 2006 festivals are at *Attachment B*.

The key timeframe for performing and visual arts is January/February 2007 when Australia will present showcases at the following festivals: Mumbai Festival, 14-28 January, National School of Drama Festival, New Delhi, 12-20 January, Jaipur International Heritage Festival, 14 -23 January and Ishara International Puppet Festival, New Delhi, 15-26 January.

Visual Arts

The visual arts program promoted both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian artists.

2006 saw to the two Indigenous exhibitions, *Seasons of the Kunwinjku* (Kolkata and Mumbai) and *Kiripuranji* (Bhopal and Bangalore) exhibited in 2006. These exhibitions featured works by artists from the Kunwinjku clans of West Arnhem Land and a wide range of Tiwi art including canvasses, works on paper, ceremonial spears, bark baskets and vibrant textiles respectively.

In 2007 two key visual arts exhibitions will be presented in Mumbai and New Delhi. The National Gallery of Victoria-curated exhibition, *Printemps Ete*, by Akira Isogawa and *Contemporary Object Design* – a collection of jewellery and body accessories curated by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Both exhibitions will showcase the level of excellence of Australia's contemporary design artists.

Performing Arts

The performing arts program will commence in Mumbai where an Australian showcase will be presented at the Mumbai Festival. As the festival focuses on non-traditional performances in non-traditional spaces a strong program of physical theatre and music has been developed with the following companies to perform - Strange Fruit, Dislocate, Doonoch and the Australian Art Orchestra.

Australia's presence will also include representation in the literature and film programs of the festival.

Participation in the Mumbai Festival, as the first invited focus country, presents an opportunity to showcase Australia's strength and expertise in physical theatre and music and to also join with Indian artists in workshops and collaborative programs.

Following on from this Festival, Australia artists will be represented at the National School of Drama Festival, New Delhi (Strange Fruit), Jaipur International Heritage Festival (Dislocate, Literature, and Barking Spiders Puppet Theatre), Ishara International Puppet Festival, New Delhi (Barking Spiders Puppet Theatre) Kolkata (AAO).

Literature

2007 Kolkata Book Fair & Literature

Literature is a key component of the *AusArts* program and Australia will feature as Focus Country at the 2007 Kolkata Book Fair (KBF). The annual Fair attracts huge interest with visitor numbers in excess of 1.5 million.

Participation in India's major literary fair presents an opportunity to highlight and strengthen the shared English language and literature connections that exist between Australia and India.

Australia's program will include many author and publisher presentations, readings and workshops, and the specially themed pavilion will feature a diverse range of Australian books and resources.

As Focus country at the Kolkata Book Fair, Australia will inaugurate the Fair and present the Ashok Sarkar Memorial Lecture. The Australian delegation, will led by Booker Prize winning author Tom Keneally and will include John Zubrzycki, Judith Beveridge, Margo Lanagan, Luke Beesley, Christopher Kremmer, Kirsty Murray and a delegation from the Poetry Australia Foundation.

Participation in the 2007 Fair also presents the opportunity for a broader promotion of Australia. As Focus country, Australia will be allocated significant space in the prime area of the Fair. Agencies such as Austrade, Australia Education International and Tourism Australia will have a presence at the Fair.

The KBF will be the focal point for a broader authors' program which will include participation in the Jaipur and Mumbai Festivals and a series of lectures, seminars and forums in Kolkata and Chennai under the Australia-India Council's education program.

Schedule of Festivals 2006/07
(subject to change)

NOVEMBER

10 - 17 *Kolkata International Film Festival*
Australian Focus

23 Nov – 3 Dec *International Film Festival of India, Goa*
Australian Focus
Rolf de Heer Retrospective

DECEMBER

15 – 22 *Chennai International Film Festival*
Rolf de Heer Retrospective

JANUARY

14 - 28 *Mumbai Festival*
Strange Fruit
Dislocate
Australian Art Orchestra
Literature Program
Film Program

6 - 20 *National School of Drama Festival – New Delhi*
Strange Fruit

14 – 23 *Jaipur Festival*
Dislocate
Literature
Barking Spider Puppet Theatre

15 - 26 *Ishara International Puppet Festival – New Delhi*
Barking Spider Puppet Theatre

FEBRUARY

30 Jan – 11 Feb *Kolkata Book Fair*
Delegation Australian Authors
AAO (Australia's Day – 31 Jan)

tbc Exhibitions: Akira Isogawa & Contemporary Object
Design
National Museum of Modern Art, Mumbai

MARCH

21 Mar – 6 Apr Exhibitions: Akira Isogawa & Contemporary Object
Design
- Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi

Films

***Kolkata International Film Festival
10 – 17 November***

Wolf Creek
Candy
Suburban Mayhem
Hold Please
Love this time

***International Film Festival of India, Goa
23 November – 3 December***

Rolf de Heer retrospective
Ten Canoes
Bad Boy Bubby
Alexandra's Project
The Tracker
The man who read love stories
Dance me to my song
The Quiet Room

***Chennai International Film Festival
15 – 22 December***

Rolf de Heer retrospective
Ten Canoes
Bad Boy Bubby
Alexandra's Project
The Tracker
The man who read love stories
Dance me to my song
The Quiet Room

***Mumbai International Arts Festival
14-28 January***

Ten Canoes
Look Both Ways
Picnic at Hanging Rock