

2018

BUS STOP FILMS ANNUAL REPORT

WAY OUT ASSISTANCE			
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Director	STEP SMITH		
Camera	EMMA PAINE		
Date	21 OCT 2018		DAY

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2018 CEO'S YEAR IN REVIEW

As I look back on 2018, I honestly don't know how we did it all! It was a very busy year of strong growth, productivity and advocacy for Bus Stop Films. We reached new locations with our program both locally and overseas, and we advocated on the global stage for more inclusion in the film and television industry in Toronto, the USA, Japan and Mongolia. Some of our films even went flying with folks on Qantas inflight entertainment!

At the start of 2018, we were so excited to appoint one of Australia's leading media and business executives, Peter Tonagh to the role of Chair. Peter has held positions such as CEO of Newscorp and CEO of Foxtel and amongst many other achievements was also appointed to head up the government's efficiency review of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the SBS. Peter has brought incredible wisdom, connections and most importantly, passion to our board and I've enjoyed having the most privileged opportunity to learn from his leadership and experience.



January saw me have the opportunity to bring inclusive filmmaking to Japan. As a commercial film director, I had won a pitch with my agency Taste Creative to create a brand film to promote the city of Tokyo for Tokyo Metropolitan Government. After winning the pitch I asked if we could implement our inclusive filmmaking model which had been developed at Bus Stop Films. We formed a partnership with the Japan Down Syndrome Society and Japanese camera rental house, Sanwa.





With the assistance of Taste Creative's Managing Director, Henry Smith, Steadicam operator extraordinaire Andrew Johnson and our incredible board member and long-time tutor, Sarah Jane Johnson, I conducted a free filmmaking workshop for six local people with Down syndrome. We were then able to facilitate a work placement opportunity for them on set with the crew. The result was amazing and the public relations around the film promoted the importance of inclusion in Japan.

In February we were thrilled to have our documentary, *I Am Black and Beautiful*, selected to play at the Toronto International Film Festival, KIDS section. The film, which was produced by our 2017 documentary class with tutors Sarah Jane Johnson and Hawanatu Bangura, gives insights into the impact of white media on the identity of Afro-Australian women. We were so excited to receive support from Create NSW to assist emerging filmmakers Hawanatu Bangura, Sarah Jane Johnson and one of our students Joni Campbell, in travelling to TIFF to present the film.

Excitingly TIFF invited myself and Joni Campbell to give the closing keynote presentation at the TIFF Kids Industry Forum! The presentation titled, '[Everyone on the Bus; the power of inclusive filmmaking](#)' was incredibly well received and resulted in an invitation to speak at Disney HQ in Burbank the following week!





In April we produced a program in partnership with GU Cinema House and the Sutherland Shire Council for youth at risk in the Shire, called "Shire Shorts." The program gave six young people the chance to learn about film and make their own shorts. The films were then presented at a gala event at GU Cinema House and we were able to raise funds to give two participants from the program, scholarships to study a short course at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

In May, we held our very first fundraiser, generously hosted by some of our most fervent supporters Ann Sherry, Michael Hogan and Nick Hogan at their home, The Abbey. Thanks to the combined efforts of our Chairman Peter, the Sherry Hogan Foundation, our board, community and our students we managed to raise \$70,000 in one night towards our growth! I am still blown away thinking about the generosity of all the people in the room who backed Bus Stop Films.



2018 was our first year operating under the NDIS as a registered service provider. We forecast that this transition would be difficult, and while it was tricky, it has ensured that we are able to cover 70% of our operating costs. That's something we have never had previously. It has also been tricky for many of our families dealing with the NDIS. There is a lot of disparity between experiences and we found that it was important to host a few information sessions to help families include Bus Stop Films in their NIDS plans. Dianna La Grassa our Chief Operations Officer, together with our Treasurer Brian Maguire and book keeper Johnny Gebrael, did an outstanding job during 2018, to ensure Bus Stop worked supportively with families in assisting them with their NDIS plans and payments. We also had wonderful support from an incredible disability rights advocate, Rhianon Brodie, and we're extremely grateful for her dedication.



Over all, 40 students were engaged within our program at the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) at Fox Studios. Our students learned a range of film studies subjects and created some fantastic work with their tutors. Program 1 adapted a short play called 'Beautiful' into a short film which they named 'Way Out Assistance' we were so excited to have Accenture sponsor the project and allow us the chance to film in their offices with a robot!

Program 2 created a Film Noir digital story and worked collaboratively with a local Sydney pop band called Whitefield to make a music clip for their song, Ivy. And Program 3 developed a short documentary called Lives in Action about the intersect between cultural diversity and disability, excitingly the film was acquired by SBS and will screen on SBS in August 2019. During research for this particular film, our tutors Hawanatu Bangura and Lillian Paterson took our students on an excursion to a performance during refugee week. Produced by Treehouse Theatre and performed by young refugees from Iraq and Syria, the excursion helped our filmmaking students learn more about the experience of people from a CALD background living in Australia.

We had some wonderful opportunities for advocacy, six of our students were excited to be given the opportunity to present to the executive leadership team of Accenture. Gerard O'dwyer and I gave various presentations on inclusion in film at Disney HQ in LA, Goldman Sachs Australia, Screen Australia, Norton Rose Fulbright and Ashurst to name a few!

Excitingly we licensed our online curriculum to Flagstaff Group and so in June we opened our first regional program in Wollongong!

We also licensed our program to the Arts Council of Mongolia, and I had the privilege of travelling to Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar in October to train their staff on teaching our accessible film studies program and making inclusive films. I also researched what the impact would be if we were to produce a Bus Stop program in Ulaanbaatar.





As a result, I produced a research report which detailed how a program like ours could make a significant difference to people with disability, to cultural understanding of disability and to their local film industry which, since the end of their communist government in 1990 has received little investment.

We began consulting on a new project with Imogen Banks and Alice Bell and (producer and writer of Offspring) and we helped fund one of our students, Sangeetha to do work experience in QLD on See Saw's new TV show The End.

Over 10 months, our students had the opportunity to go on excursions to a recording of The Voice at Fox Studios, Foxtel, Oscar award winning sound design house Big Bang Sound Design, the Australian Cinematographers Society, Accenture and our students had yet again, the incredible opportunity learn within the amazing facilities of the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS) at Fox Studios.

2019 is going to be our biggest year yet with double the number of students studying with us, new modules such as stop motion and virtual reality and our 10-year anniversary!

Hold onto your hat, the bus is going into overdrive – stay tuned!

Best wishes

Genevieve Clay-Smith
Co-Founder and CEO
Bus Stop Films



A message from the Chair, Peter Tonagh



What a remarkable year it has been for Bus Stop Films.

Having been a strong advocate for Bus Stop for a number of years, I was delighted to take on the role of Chairman in early 2018. It was a great time to join the Board and assist Genevieve and the Bus Stop team in a very productive and positive year. Witnessing the growth and development of the filmmakers participating in our program has been particularly exciting and rewarding. This year we have seen the film industry recognise the need for more inclusion and diversity in the film and media industries and witnessed this awareness result in some wonderful doors being opened to our students for work placements, employment and internships.

We have an amazingly talented and committed board and management and, through Genevieve's leadership, have delivered on all of the key goals we set out for 2018 – and more.

Our goals this year were to:

- Successfully navigate the transition to NDIS funding - As you may be aware, this is a new scheme and, given the expected teething issues, we targeted a 12-month time frame for the transition. Under the leadership of our amazing General Manager, and now COO, Dianna La Grassa, this was achieved in just 6 months;
- Produce three film projects with our students and film industry mentors - We were able to produce 4 wonderful, high quality, high impact film projects;
- Establish an inaugural fundraiser to assist with raising funds for 2019 projects and events – With great support from Ann Sherry, Michael Hogan, Nick Hogan and the Sherry Hogan Foundation, we had a very successful first fundraiser in May and we are now gearing up for the next one;
- Establish an ongoing international project - We did a one-off program in Japan and have now established a 12-month program in Mongolia; and
- Successfully establish and oversee a regional Bus Stop program - We successfully launched our Wollongong program under a licensing agreement with Flagstaff and will enjoy working with them well into 2019. We also laid the groundwork for our new 2019 program in Parramatta.

2018 was a year of successfully growing our reach and impact – providing more and better opportunities to more young potential filmmakers.

In 2019, the 10th year of Bus Stop Films, we will continue to focus on providing these opportunities while securing the ongoing funding we require to guarantee our sustainable contribution to fostering and promoting inclusion in the film industry and delivering education and ongoing employment pathways for people with a disability.

A message from our COO, Dianna La Grassa

As a woman living with disability, it has given me great pleasure to watch our organisation pave groundbreaking pathways for the inclusion of people with disabilities in the film industry. We are doing things no one else is, and as the company's COO I am proud to be at the forefront, helping to lead this exciting movement.

2018 saw Bus Stop Films' programs continue to make large strides in delivering our transformational learning outcomes in both our classes and on film sets.

With moving to a fee for service model and engaging in the government's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) we've been faced with a number of challenges due to it's current structure. To help navigate this we held several information and education sessions with our community, created supportive and informative documentations and we liaised on our student's behalf with the NDIS directly to ensure they could participate and have funding to participate in our programs. We also forged partnerships with a third party, Good Directions, to expand our options for students to access NDIS funding due to our limited registration. These efforts have been successful and we were able to fully support three (3) programs last year with very few having to take advantage of our scholarship program.

As we continue to grow in both size and geography we will focus on increasing the digital experience for our students, tutors and partners and look to streamline the enrolment process our procedures and support resources.

For 2019 we have invested in an online Customer Relationship Management system to allow us to manage opportunities, contracts and partnerships whilst creating transparency and visibility across the organisation which will support the scalability of BSF long term.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the journey so far and as the COO I look forward to helping BSF succeed well into the future. It is an exciting time ahead full of opportunity and promise!



BOARD

PETER TONAGH (CHAIR)
BRIAN MAGUIRE (TREASURER)
GENEVIEVE CLAY-SMITH (CEO)
DIANNA LA GRASSA (COO)
**ELEANOR WINKLER (CO-
FOUNDER)**
SARAH JANE JOHNSON
JACQUI ATTARD

ADVISORY BOARD

TRACEY CORBIN-MATCHETT
COURTNEY GIBSON
PAUL NUNNARI

AMBASSADORS

ABBY EARL
NATHAN BASHA
GERARD O'DWYER
JONI CAMPBELL

WHAT OUR STUDENTS THINK!

"I have loved going and look forward to it every week"

"It has improved my communication and self-confidence"

"I love going to Bus Stop class. I get myself there. I am responsible for getting myself there on time."

"The best thing was being part of a production. Being an extra in a film. Visiting a television station."

"I like everything!"

"It gives me more exposure to a new area. I have gained a lot especially as I have learnt more about technical devices other than my phone and computer. I am able to do something I enjoy rather than having nothing to do or just being stuck on my phone or computer"

"Bus Stop Films has provided me with a course that I am interested in."

"I like the experience of being interviewed and filmed on air – it was like being on stage and I feel that was the best part of being myself."

"I like going there because I learn more about filming. I have always liked movies and filming and this is a chance for me to learn first-hand."

"I have made a friend at Bus Stop Films, whom I catch up with through the week"

"I feel I was getting more connected with people"

"I've met more friends from the film industry and new tutors!"

"I am feeling more grown up."

"It is a new field for me and a new experience which gives me new ideas for different jobs using technical skills which BSF has actually helped me with."



2018 STATISTICS

We facilitated 60 work experience opportunities, including on set experience with professionals and writers room workshops with Imogen Banks and Alice Bell!

15 paid employment opportunities; includes paid public speaking opportunities and film industry work.

50% of our students gained employment or work experience as a direct result of being involved in the Bus Stop Films program in 2018

50% said the skills they learn at Bus Stop has helped them maintain their current job

75% of students noticed an improvement in their work ready skills.

100% of our students said that studying at Bus Stop Films helped them make new friends.

75% of our students identified an increased improvement in their time management skill as a result of studying with Bus Stop Films

90% of our students identified that their sense of independence had increased.

82% identified an improvement in their writing skills

70% of students identified an improvement in their ability to articulate their thoughts and ideas.

90% of students identified an improvement in their ability to work in a team environment.

90% of student identified an increase in their self-confidence.





2018 TOP TEN HIGHLIGHTS!

Take a peek at some things we're
proud of from 2018!

10. WORK EXPERIENCE & EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR STUDENTS!

We have been able to help facilitate a variety of paid work opportunities for students and others with disability at creative agency, Taste Creative. We helped facilitate employment for Bevan Garozzo in a number of paid production assistant roles at Taste Creative including work for Rio Tinto, P&O and Remarkable.

Our student, Sangeetha travelled to Queensland with one of our tutors, Lili Mackessy where she completed work experience on The End, a new TV series produced by Oscar winning production company See Saw, check out what Sangeetha had to say about the experience in her blog '[Sangeetha's Work Experience in QLD](#)'

We also facilitated a team of students gaining work experience on the ABC TV show 'The Angus Project' check what the experience was like in our blog '[The Angus Project, On Set for a Cracker Comedy](#)'



9. A NEW BUS STOP IN THE GONG!

We began our first regional program in partnership with Flagstaff in Unanderra, 11 students now study our accessible film studies program each week!

You can read more about it from Nina one of our Wollongong students here in her blog, '[Lights Colours Action, at our Wollongong Accessible Film Studies Program!](#)'

8. INCLUSIVE FILMMAKING IN JAPAN!

We went to Tokyo and held a free filmmaking workshop for local people with Down syndrome. We then got those folks working with us on set to make *Shakespeare in Tokyo*, a piece of branded content for the promotion of Tokyo!

Check out the inclusive filmmaking process in this [behind the scenes clip](#) as well as this article from the Japan Times called

'Embracing difference; Shakespeare in Tokyo is the picture of inclusion'

And don't forget to watch the finished film, [Shakespeare in Tokyo](#)!



KEYNOTE

Everyone on the Bus: The Power of Inclusive Filmmaking

With Genevieve Clay-Smith

Industry Supporter



7. PRESENTING ON INCLUSIVE FILMMAKING AT TIFF!

Joni Campbell and Genevieve went to TIFF to give the closing keynote presentation on inclusive filmmaking! Read Joni's blog about her experience here; "All aboard the Bus to TIFF" and see the full presentation here "Everyone on the Bus; the power of inclusive filmmaking."

6. PRESENTING ON INCLUSIVE FILMMAKING AT DISNEY HQ!

Gerard O'dwyer and Genevieve were given the opportunity to present to Disney employees at the Disney HQ in Burbank, LA – it was wonderful to share the Bus Stop journey with them and help them think about what is possible when it comes to inclusion.



5. OUR EXCURSION TO THE ABC AND THE VOICE!

We had some wonderful excursions in 2018! You can read all about them by visiting our blog!

Check out;
“Our Visit to ABC Studios’ and ‘Our Trip to the Voice”

4. OUR STUDENTS MADE SOME GREAT CONTENT!

Our student's film projects; *Lives in Action*, *Way Out Assistance*, *Ivy music clip* and *Film Noir Digital Story*, were a roaring success, you can see how the students made the films in this [behind the scenes highlights reel](#)!



3. WE SENT OUR FILMS FLYING!

Two of our documentary films, *Gambling with Minds* and *I Am Black and Beautiful* enlightened Qantas passengers on Qantas In-flight entertainment!



2. SHIRE SHORTS!

We were also so happy to produce a program for the Sutherland Shire Council, you can read about the student's experience in the blog [‘Shire Shorts a Student's Eye View’](#)!



1. BRINGING INCLUSIVE FILMMAKING TO MONGOLIA!

We were so excited to form a partnership with the Arts Council of Mongolia and start a new program in Mongolia's capital city of Ulaanbaatar! While visiting on a feasibility and research trip, we gave two presentations and a day long workshop regarding our accessible film studies program and inclusive filmmaking model. Excitingly the first of our Mongolian classes will start on February 28th 2019. You can see some of the things we got up to by checking out this [highlights reel of our trip to Mongolia!](#)



THE FUTURE

2019 is going to be double decker! BSF is entering a very exciting year of growth, expansion and transition. It is our 10-year anniversary! That's right, 10 years since Genevieve, Eleanor and Gerard won Tropfest with Be My Brother the first inclusive film – Be My Brother was the catalyst for starting the engine of Bus Stop Films!

As well as celebrating our 10-year anniversary, it will be time for Genevieve to hand over the steering wheel to a new executive leader who can take Bus Stop Films further and bring more opportunities to the organisation. Genevieve will remain on Bus Stop's board as an Executive Director to continue advocating for inclusive filmmaking and searching for international opportunities to reach new people who need the Bus Stop program.

We have recruited some awesome new tutors to teach our students and are starting our first Parramatta program in partnership with Information Cultural Exchange (ICE) supported by Price Waterhouse Coopers. We are producing our first Virtual Reality program with our Western Sydney class and incredible digital artist and filmmaker Elias Nohra and we are also producing our first stop motion program with talented filmmaker, Genevieve Kaiser!

In total we have 5 programs running in 2019, and 63 students enrolled in total.

We are working with large production companies such as Endemol Shine, WIN TV, Aquarius Films and SeeSaw to forge work experience and employment pathways for our students.

And we can't wait to see our 2018 films get out there to audiences on the film festival circuit! Keep an eye out for our documentary Lives in Action which will be screened on SBS mid-year of 2019.

We look forward to an incredibly fruitful and rewarding 2019, be sure to keep updated with all that's happening with us by following up on our social media channels across Instagram, Facebook and Twitter!



THE FINANCES

We were happy to produce a strong financial report, which showcases us in a healthy position for 2019! Profit from 2018 is reinvested back into our organisation, to assist with our growth, our advocacy, our work and our programs.

Our revenue increased by 1.8% going from \$212,880 in 2017 to \$216,724 in 2018.
And our profit increased by 22.2%

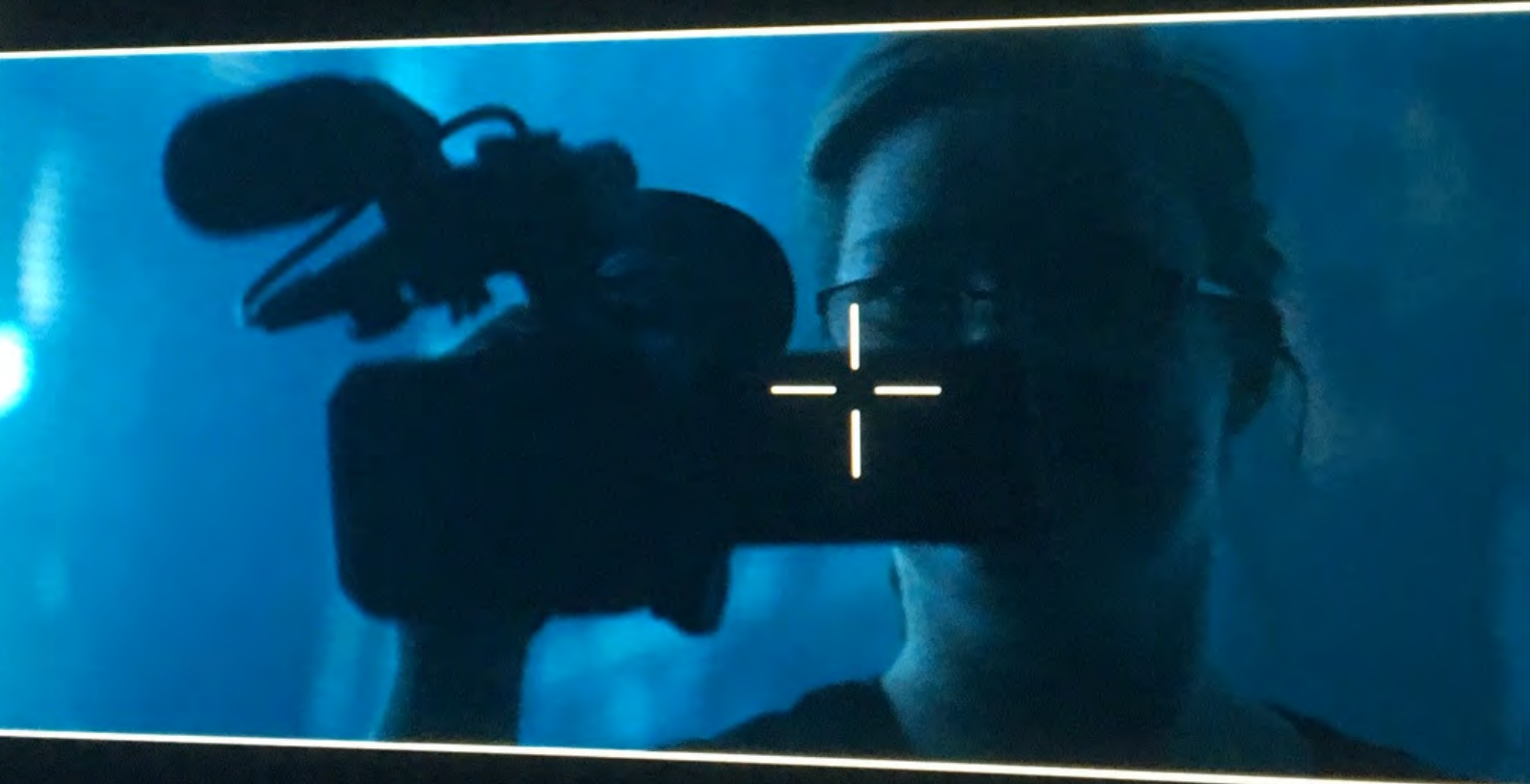
A copy of our full financial report can be found on the ACNC register under Bus Stop Films.

FPS 25.000

SHUTTER 180.0

EI 800

WB



BAT 2 98%

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