

CINESPACE inc

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

About our organisation

We think the Australian screen industry should be representative of the community as it really is. Cinespace works to create greater diversity on screen and behind the scenes.

Cinespace collaborates with people from diverse and under-represented multicultural communities across Victoria to develop skills, produce work, and build communities and creative careers.

Our vision is be Victoria's most valued organisation for increasing on screen cultural diversity.

The programs we run focus on three priority areas:

1. providing access to opportunities for new and emerging culturally-diverse filmmakers
2. generating and celebrating success and recognition for the filmmakers we work with
3. advancing community discussion around a more diverse screen culture

In 2018 we achieved our organisational objectives to:

1. Implement a three-year strategic plan (2018-2020)
2. Develop marketing collateral and online presence
3. Consolidate relationships

Our 2019 organisational objectives are to:

1. Explore becoming a charitable organisation to increase fundraising opportunities
2. Activate our production support program
3. Strengthen relationships with supporters and funders

2018 Snapshot

10

number of programs run

61

screen projects developed

102

number of people supported

\$90k

grant funding received

President's Report

The content that appears on Australian screens, as with the screens in any nation, are expressions of our cultural psyche. Media is the arbitrator and the means of articulation of conceptions of a society and identity. Film and TV have been the powerful medium through which specific notions of Australian-ness coalesce in the public consciousness through a history of cinematic representation.

The work that Cinespace does in providing access to new providing access to opportunities for new and emerging culturally-diverse filmmakers and advocating for a more diverse screen culture is tremendously important in ensuring all Australians are reflected with integrity on our screens.

We have had a very productive 2018 with 61 screen projects developed and 102 and counting people supported. We are the future of the Australian film industry.



We thank our funders for their faith in us. As our report indicates we have acquitted ourselves with integrity. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank and congratulate Daniel Schultheis and Elise West for tremendous work they have put in to each one of the projects and making Cinespace the iconoclastic organisation that we so desperately need.

We look forward to an even more exciting 2019.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Pereira', written in a cursive style.

Steve Pereira
President

Committee Members



Steve Pereira

President

Steve is a highly skilled events administrator, marketing and communications professional with extensive experience in community engagement and development in the arts and cultural arenas and the tertiary education sector.

Elise West

Treasurer

Elise has extensive experience in international current affairs, video journalism and independent documentary. She has researched and written various documentaries for SBS's Dateline, and co-directed a feature film *The Siege in Peru*.



Sabi Paisa

Committee Member

Sabi Paisa has a BA in Media and Film in Directing and has worked in the screen industry for more than 15 years as a professional Script Supervisor on projects such as *Winners & Losers*, *The Warriors & Mustangs FC*.

Daniel Schultheis

Secretary and Founder

Daniel has worked for over 15 years as a screen educator in the public and private sector including 10 years for community organisation Open Channel. Daniel was a recipient of an ISSI Fellowship into microbudget filmmaking in 2013, and is currently producing independent features.



Luciano Caluzzi

Committee Member

Luciano is an independent writer-director and founder of film equipment company, Gorilla Film Gear.

Angela Lee

Committee Member

Angela is a versatile media business manager with experience managing production teams and executives at a regional and global level. Angela has managed programmes from ideation to delivery for the BBC, Bloomberg, HBO Asia, Al Jazeera Malaysia, Mediacorp Singapore ABC Australia



Guner Hussein

Committee Member

Guner is an Australian Legal Practitioner, Registered Migration Agent and a Managing Associate at RSG Lawyers. He is primarily experienced in migration law, administrative law with a focus on educational institutions, and business structuring and sales. Guner is also a documentary filmmaker, whose work has screened the VMC Film Festival.

Hoang Tran Nguyen

Committee Member

Hoang Tran Nguyen is a contemporary artist based in Melbourne and a recipient of a Queens Trust Award. His work has been exhibited at The Substation, Blindside Gallery and the Big West Festival.



Access to Opportunities

In 2017-2018 Cinespace ran a wide range of programs providing practical opportunities for new and emerging culturally-diverse filmmakers.

Toward the end of 2017, we launched 5 projects themed around social cohesion. 4 short films by new filmmakers, and one stage play written by Saman Shad were created in partnership with Big Red Films and with funding from the Victorian Government, Australia Post. The Building Community Resilience project launch event took place at the new Bowery Theatre in St Albans with an additional community grant from Brimbank City Council, and was attended by 200 people. Multicultural Arts Victoria also provided support. Officials attending to launch the films included Mayor Margaret Giaduce and Jill McCabe, Assistant Director | Economic & Community Participation and Office for Youth, Department of Health and Human Services, Victorian Government.



From March to July 2018 (5 months) we ran Story Lab with funding from Film Victoria's Early Career Development Program. The program was run over three phases, with shortlisted projects at each stage progressing to more intensive mentoring and development. The eight projects at stage two included scripts by Nadia Faragaab, Cindy Rodriguez, Hoa Pham and Marisa Brown, Kauthar Abdulalim, Joseva Marcus Viqasi, Monique Hameed and Cem Bilici. Story Lab mentors included script developers Charlie Carman and Cath Moore, and guest speakers included (Steven Arriagada and Bryan Chau from Diverse Films, John Kachoyan, Cathy Koman, and investment managers Alicia Brown and Cathy Rodda from Film Victoria. The project attracted writers from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, and more than 50% of participants were women.



Cinespace also ran a number of special one-off initiatives in 2018 without special funding, with the support of partner organisations. These included: Mindframe: Truthful Portrayals of Mental Illness on Stage and Screen seminar with EveryMind, held at the CoHealth Arts Generator in May, with 35 registrations.

One-on-one 'Meet the Agency' meetings with Screen Australia online's Lee Naimo and Alyce Adams held at Footscray Community Arts Centre in September with 11 meetings project. Valuable industry connections were formed and a number of participants then applied for Screen Australia's Generate funding.

***A Story Lab participant liked
“having connections to other
people with similar goals, and
hearing people’s stories”***

- Matthew Victor Pastor’s independent features *The Axolotl can Regenerate its Heart* (co created by Bridget O’Brien) and *In Heaven They Sing Karaoke* (co-created by Fellino Dolloso) and the documentary *Between Worlds* for Channel 31. *Between Worlds* was also auspiced through Cinespace to receive a small production grant from the Community Broadcasting Foundation’s content grants.



Participants in the Seat at the Table project by HealthWest mobile filmmaking workshops around mental health, led by Cinespace alumni Julianne Nguyen and Lily Nguyen was attended by around 10 new filmmakers. (pictured below)

- Two projects for Village Cinemas Unscene entres:
- Daniel Schultheis, Duyen Anh Pham, Lily Nguyen and Julianne Nguyen’s *Tân Tro* starring Jillian Nguyen (True History of the Kelly Gang)
- Kauthar Abdulalim’s *Kasoor*



We also acknowledge equipment sponsorships and discounts from DigiDirect, Neat Video, BeastGrip, Moondog Labs, RedGiant, Rode Microphones and Bunnings Sunshine.

Writers + Rights seminar with ArtsLaw Australia, held at the Yarraville Community Centre in October 2018 and attended by 25 registrations and 5 individual legal clinics.

During 2018 Cinespace also ran some video skills training for Committee and Staff of Duke Street Community House, who also kindly supported Cinespace with meeting space this year.

New DSLR filmmaking equipment was purchased with grants from R E Ross Trust (\$8,000) and the Australian Government’s Stronger Communities program (with support from Tim Watts MP) (\$10,000), and we launched a Production Support Program to support new diverse filmmakers with access to this equipment. Examples of productions supported with equipment in 2017/2018 include:

We auspiced StoryLab graduate Chloe Wong’s grant application to the HEY Grants for Social Connectedness.

- Anthony Lawang, DeeJay Sanchez and Kiefer Findlow’s Hip Hop series *The LSN* on Channel 31
- Julianne Nguyen’s *Day in the life of a Jobseeker*

Looking forward to 2019, Cinespace have been funding by the Social Cohesion Unit of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Victorian Government to run a Social Cohesion on Screen Writer’s Fellowship program. Film Victoria have also funded us for continual writing programs for emerging diverse writers under the Early Career Development Program. Finally, Cinespace in partnership with Multicultural Arts Victoria will run a series of mobile phone filmmaking workshops with small grants from Brimbank, Wyndham and Maribyrnong City Councils.

Pathways to Successes and Recognition

Showcasing some of the achievements of the filmmakers and screen creators we have worked together with in 2018.

The launch of the Building Community Resilience at the Bowery Theatre showcased the talents of four short films by new filmmakers. Each film has since screened at festivals and won awards. (see also <https://www.cinespace.org.au/productions>)

Ayan Yusuf

Short comedy *Bittersweet* by Ayan Yusuf has screened at 4 festivals and won Best Film Cultural Diversity Award & Audience Choice Awards at the Setting Sun Film Festival in Yarraville (pictured below with Film Victoria's Jana Blair), and also screened at the VMC's Victorian Youth Summit followed by a Q&A. Ayan is writing a web-series in 2019 and was selected by Cinespace for a Social Cohesion on Screen Fellowship.



Shejuti Hossain

Short drama *Creed* by Shejuti Hossain has screened at 7 festivals and was the Youth Short Film Award winner at Joy House Film Festival. DoP of *Creed* Ali B Dahe has established his own YouTube vlog channel since the course with over 700 subscribers, and Producer Julianne Nguyen has since been awarded at the Canberra Interfaith Film Festival and screened at the VMC Film Festival for her own short film *Grey*. Shejuti is planning another film project in 2019.

Guner Hussein

Short documentary *Just By Your Voice* by Guner Hussein about singer Dileen Barwary screened at 3 festivals, and won the Dianella Population Health Pick Award at Humanity: The Hume Diversity Short Film Festival. Guner is planning a documentary project in 2019.

Kauthar Abdulalim

Experiential short film *Found* by Kauthar Abdulalim has screened at 8 festivals and won the BMW Best Australian Short Film at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne. Kauthar has been interviewed about her short film by SBS Hindi and SBS Urdu, and featured in the Hindustan Times, one of India's biggest newspapers. From that project, Kauthar has gone on to a number of career achievements. She was placed on a Film Victoria attachment with production company Chemical Media on the production *You See Monsters*; was engaged to film *Emerge* in the West spoken word event by Multicultural Arts Victoria; participated in StoryLab developing the comedy series *Salma in the City* now under option by Chemical Media, submitted a project to Screen Australia Generate funding and SBS short documentaries; engaged on grants panel for the Department of Premier and Cabinet (our 2017 project funders); directed the short film *Kasoor* for Village Cinema's Unscene Film Competition; filmed a short documentary about Muslim dating, was supported by Film Victoria to attend the Screen Forever conference, and was selected by Cinespace for a Social Cohesion on Screen Fellowship.



Second Son

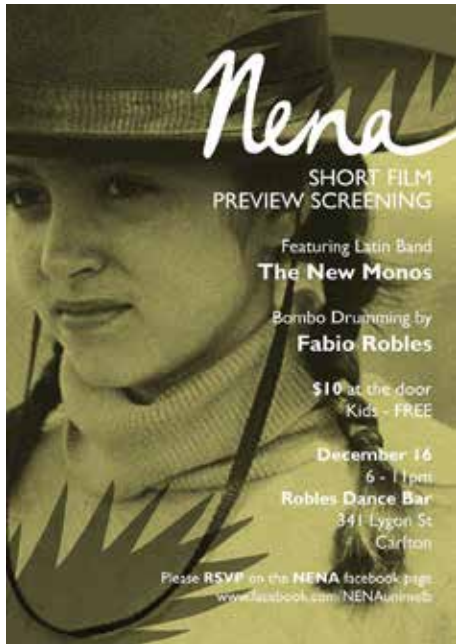
The launch also saw the debut performance of the short original stage play, *Second Son*, written by Saman Shad and Co-Directed by Alkinos Tsilimidis and Emily O'Brien-Brown and starring Sepideh Fallah and Youssef Sabet. Saman was flown from Sydney to attend with the support of Multicultural Arts Victoria.

Cinespace commends the incredible achievements of the talented and passionate artists involved in our 2017 project, and to watching their creative careers flourish in the future.

StoryLab Graduates

StoryLab graduates have continued to engage with each other in a Facebook group, and a number of participants have had ongoing career achievements.

Two short films have progressed into production out of Story Lab, including Cindy Rodriguez' *Nena*, and Yao Zhan's *The Last Typewriter*.



Nadia Farqaab's short film *Sunroom* was shortlisted for the SBS/ Film Victoria scripted short initiative.

Two writers participating in the final stage were partnered with production companies - Hoa Pham with Viskatoons (*Suspect Moustache*, SBS) and XX with Buffalo Media (producers of award winning short, *Mrs McCutcheon*) for mentorship.

One writer from Stage One, Chloe Wong, was invited into a writer's room at Every Cloud Productions to consult on a Chinese character.

Participant Ra Chapman is consulting with Buster Productions, was a Living Now Residency Recipient at Footscray Community Arts, and selected to join the Contemporary Asian Australian Performance (CAAP) Directors initiative with the Melbourne Theatre Company.

Marisa Brown, a Stage Three participant was awarded a Film Victoria writers placement with the digital series *Seekers*, had her film's 'hero song' shortlisted for Best Country Song in the Australian Songwriting Awards, and her pre-feature short film made its festival debut tonight at the Canberra

Short Film Festival.

Participant Saara Lamberg has been cast as Amelia in the new Ryan Kendall film *The Lovers*, written by Akuot Manyok, and is directing her second feature.

Cem Bilici was selected to pitch his horror comedy webseries *Kebabs of the Dead* to iView at Melbourne WebFest.

Story Lab participants have also joined the diversity initiative at the Australian Writers Guild, attended industry events such as the Screen Australia guidelines information session in July, applied to the Film Victoria Industry Skills programs, and formed creative teams to apply to the SBS / Film Victoria Scripted Short Initiative.

Cinespace auspiced a grant through the Community Broadcasting Foundation for independent Filipino-Australian filmmaker and VCA graduate, Matthew Victor Pastor, to produce *Between Worlds* a half hour documentary on his work for Channel 31 Melbourne and Geelong. Described in an Inside Film article as 'Australia's Most Prolific Filmmaker' Matthew's feature work, also supported with equipment through Cinespace Production Support program has screened at the Adelaide Film Festival and MonsterFest, as well as abroad. Matthew was also attached to direct one of the AFTRS Talent Camp short films, *Fun Times*, funded by Screen Australia.

Cinespace has had an active Facebook social media page <https://www.facebook.com/cinespaceinc>. Likes have increased from around 70 in late 2017 to a current 300, and our maximum organic post reach is more than 2000. Our community regularly responds to and engages with posts.



Above: Ayan Yusuf's *Bittersweet* wins at the Setting Sun Short Film Festival in Yarraville (photo Burke Photography)

Advancing the discussion about diversity

We know there's a need for greater diversity on screen and behind the scenes, and in 2018 we sought to actively participate in the discussion about ways to improve it.

2017

AFTRS invited Cinespace and Kauthar Abdulalim to speak at the Melbourne launch of the Screen Diversity and Inclusion Network (SDIN) in August at ACMI – the SDIN is a group of broadcasters, screen agencies, business associations, guilds, and education and training organisations committed to improving the diversity of the Australian screen industries.

May

We ran a vital Mindframe workshop with the support of EveryMind for stage and screen writers from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds around presenting truthful, accurate portrayals of mental illness on stage and screen that have a positive impact on the community. The event was held in May at Cohealth Arts Generator and attended by 35 people.

June

We were invited by Nawal Moudgil to participate in a panel discussion about on-screen diversity at SSCAFF 2018 - Satrangi 7 Colors Arts & Film Festival, with the festival also screening short film *Creed*.

July

With the support of Film Victoria, Cinespace assisted 7 Story Lab participants to attend Series Mania industry day and made connections with Sally Riley (ABC), Brett Sleigh (ABC iView), Alyse Adams (Screen Australia), Film Victoria representatives, and independent producers amongst others.

Held a stall at the Pacific Connections Expo at Hoppers Crossing, together with the Sunshine Short Film Festival.

August

Cinespace attended the Accelerator Lab Masterclass - Screen Diversity: Breaking Barriers & Building Bridges.

Met with the arts team at Maribyrnong City Council Arts and Culture team about their new Creative Strategy.

September

Cinespace assisted with the live video component of the Ilm Arts Festival at Melbourne Town Hall, with participation from people in our network, Ali B. Dahe and Kalaam Vamshii. The successful event was produced by Kauthar Abdulalim.



October

Cinespace's Daniel Schultheis and Kauthar Abdulalim participated in a Q&A about the film *Found* at SalamFest, Federation Square.



November

Cinespace were sponsors, Committee member Elise West on the judging panel (together with filmmaker Matthew Victor Pastor) at the Sunshine Short Film Festival.

Co-ordinated meeting between the creators of the Talkin' Pictures Film Festival, the Melbourne Community Indigenous Filmmakers Collective (MCIFC) and Maribyrnong City Council Arts and Culture team.

2019

Cinespace are looking forward, our Social Cohesion on Screen Writer's Fellowship program in 2019 will see us develop strategies for effective social change through screenplays and greater advocacy about inclusion and representation by our selected Fellows.

Acknowledgements and Thank You

Thank you to our supporters.

Cinespace wishes to thank our various funders and supporters in 2018.

Victorian Government

- Department of Premier and Cabinet (Michael Beattie Masoud)

- Film Victoria

Australian Government Department of Industry, Innovation and Science - Stronger Communities

- Tim Watts MP

R E Ross Trust

and

99 Designs

Australia Post Our Neighbourhood Community Grants

Beastgrip

Big Red Films (Julie Buxton and Gus Berger)

Bunnings Sunshine

CoHealth

Duke Street Community House

Footscray Community Arts Centre

Luma Touch

Moondog Labs

Multicultural Arts Victoria

Neat Video

Red Ginat software

Brimbank City Council

Rode Microphones

Wix

Yarraville Community ??

Annual Report

Daniel Schultheis

Elise West

FINANCIALS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



