



**George Souris M.P**  
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing  
Minister for the Arts

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **\$792,533 BOOST FOR PERFORMING ARTS TOURING**

Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality, Racing and the Arts, George Souris, has announced \$792,533 in funding for 12 performing arts groups to take their productions to regional areas across NSW.

Mr Souris said the grants are part of the 2012 Arts Funding Program (AFP) which will provide \$58.22 million for NSW artistic and cultural ventures.

“From dance, theatre, physical theatre, circus and music productions, this funding helps provide more opportunities for people across the State to access quality arts and culture,” Mr Souris said.

“Leading arts groups such as Bangarra Dance Theatre, the Sydney Dance Company, Tantrum Theatre, Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People and Sydney Improvised Music Association for Sound Travellers will receive grants in this allocation.

“The Liberals and Nationals Government recognises the importance of bringing artistic excellence to regional areas.

“I am delighted to see that people everywhere from Wagga Wagga to Wollongong, Coffs Harbour to Cessnock and Tamworth to Taree will have the chance to enjoy artistic excellence in their home town through this initiative.

“All the grant recipients of 2012 Performing Arts Touring funding must take their production to at least two regional destinations in NSW.”

Mr Souris said the NSW Government is pleased to provide support for arts and cultural organisations and artists under the AFP.

“This important scheme is designed to encourage high artistic merit, innovation, build existing and new audiences, support professional and sector development and increase access to the arts,” he said.

“The program provides grants which will go towards programs, projects and tours to be presented in the 2012 calendar year.

“By investing in arts and cultural development the NSW Government is ensuring our State remains the cultural capital of Australia.

“I congratulate all the recipients of this latest round of funding under the AFP.”

Further AFP grant recipients will be announced shortly.

## 2012 Performing Arts Touring Grant Recipients

Organisation	Regional Touring Electorates	Project	Amount
Shaun Parker & Company Limited	Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Dubbo	A tour of <i>The Yard</i> , a highly physical, dance theatre production, to Newcastle, Port Macquarie and Dubbo.	\$28,768
Arts on Tour – NSW Ltd for Sydney Dance Company	Wagga Wagga, Albury, Port Macquarie, South Coast, Newcastle, Wollongong and Bathurst	The company's production <i>The Land of Yes, The Land of No</i> will tour Wagga Wagga, Albury, Port Macquarie, Nowra, Newcastle, Wollongong and Bathurst as well as Sydney metropolitan locations.	\$162,050
Christine Dunstan Productions	Lismore, Port Macquarie, Myall Lakes, Coffs Harbour, Tamworth, Cessnock, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Monaro and Gosford	Playwright Don Reid will tour a production of the comedy <i>Biddies</i> to Lismore, Port Macquarie, Taree, Coffs Harbour, Tamworth, Cessnock, Bathurst, Wagga Wagga, Albury, Queanbeyan, Penrith and Gosford as well as Sydney metropolitan locations.	\$130,406
Arts on Tour – NSW Ltd for Bangarra Dance	Bathurst, Orange, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and Port Macquarie	Bangarra will tour <i>Of Earth and Sky</i> to Bathurst, Orange, Albury, Wagga Wagga, Dubbo and Port Macquarie.	\$133,693
Arts on Tour – NSW Ltd for Big hART Inc	Tamworth, Orange, Bathurst, Newcastle, Murrumbidgee, Wagga Wagga and Albury.	Big hART will tour the production of <i>Namatijira</i> to Tamworth, Orange, Bathurst, Griffith, Wagga Wagga and Albury and a Sydney location.	\$58,011
Tantrum Theatre Cooperative Ltd	Newcastle, Hunter, Dubbo and Port Macquarie	Tantrum Theatre will tour an outdoor production of Shakespeare's <i>Twelfth Night</i> in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley, Dubbo and Port Macquarie.	\$27,000
Arts on Tour – NSW Ltd for Illawarra Performing Arts Centre Ltd	South Coast, Goulburn and Wollondilly	Merrigong Theatre, a part of the Illawarra Performing Arts Centre, will tour <i>The Dapto Chaser</i> to venues in Nowra, Milton, Mittagong and Wollondilly as well as Sydney metropolitan locations.	\$13,517
Sydney Improvised Music Association Inc for Sound Travellers	Wollongong, Bathurst, Orange, Dubbo, South Coast, Ballina, Oxley, Myall Lakes and Newcastle	Sound Travellers and Sydney Improvised Jazz Association (SIMA) will tour a contemporary jazz project to Wollongong, Bathurst, Forbes, Orange, Dubbo, Milton, Byron Bay, Bellingen, Manning, Foster, Newcastle and Lismore.	\$30,000
Arts on Tour – NSW Ltd for Monkey Baa Theatre for Young People	Myall Lakes, Port Macquarie, Barwon, Tamworth, Cessnock, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga and Wollongong	Monkey Baa will tour a production of <i>The Bugalugs Bum Thief</i> to Byron Bay, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Narrabri, Gunnedah, Cessnock, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong and a Sydney location.	\$72,107
Critical Stages	Wagga Wagga, Albury, Port Macquarie, Myall Lakes, Tamworth, Dubbo, Macquarie Fields, Orange, Murrumbidgee, Monaro, Wollongong	Critical Stages, in partnership with the Follies Company, will tour Allan Knee's comedy, drama and romance <i>SYNCOPIATION</i> to Wagga Wagga, Albury, Shoalhaven, Port Macquarie, Taree, Tamworth, Dubbo, Orange, Griffith, Queanbeyan and Wollongong as well as Sydney locations.	\$79,836
Arts on Tour – NSW Ltd for Erth Visual & Physical Inc	Orange, Bathurst, South Coast, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Monaro, Albury and Wagga Wagga	Erth Visual and Physical will tour a production of <i>I, Bunyip</i> to Orange, Bathurst, Nowra, Coffs Harbour, Lismore, Queanbeyan, Albury and Wagga Wagga as well as Sydney locations.	\$57,145