

Zsuzsi Soboslay -- Current CV, November 2018

Website: <http://www.bodyecology.com.au/>

Educator, performer, writer, director, curator, musician, project manager & community arts facilitator.

BA (Hons) 1st class, Sydney University, 1984 [includes studies in music, literature, linguistics and theatre studies]. A.Mus.A; LT.C.L. 1980, 1981. PhD Candidate, Monash University. "Care Ethics in participatory arts practices."
Creator of BodyEcology integrated bodywork practice [1991ff].

Employment in educational roles:

- 2017 ff Learning Facilitator [Casual], National Portrait Gallery, ACT.
- 2018 [*initiator*] specialist work with the *Composing Women* [Masters' degree] cohort –commissioned by Professor Liza Lim, NSW Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney
- 2016-17 Peer [professional] movement teacher, Street Theatre, Canberra, 2016-17.
- 2017 [*initiator*] immersion process created for and with full Year 9 student cohort at Radford College, Refugee Week
- 2016: [*initiator*] Year 9 boys from Marist College Canberra invited into workshop, and to perform in *The Compassion Plays* at Gorman Arts Centre [participatory theatre work on the experience of refugees]
- 2013-17 Movement teacher, *CDTeens* [Canberra Dance Theatre]—teens of special needs; *Room to Move* mixed age/abilities classes, Belconnen Arts Centre; classes for adults with special needs, Belconnen Community Centre.
- 2012 ff Director and mentor, *The Hive* script development program, Street Theatre, Canberra 2012 ff
- 2009 inaugural Artists-in-Schools (ACT), Early Childhood Residency @O'Connor Co-Operative School: puppetry, storytelling and visual arts with children pre-school--Yr 2.
- 2001 ff BodyEcology trainings and intensives: Sutherland National Park, Lake George and Tidbinbilla National Park
- 1988-2004: **Lecturer & tutor**—full-time, part-time and casual-- **in theatre and performance-making** in over 11 nation-wide tertiary institutions, including:
- School of Theatre and Film, University of New South Wales [1988-9]; School of Theatre and Media, Macquarie University [1988]; School of Drama, Victorian College of the Arts [1990]; School of Education, University of Melbourne [1991-2]; School of Drama, University of Wollongong [1993-6]; School of Theatre Performance, University of Sydney [1993-6]; Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Mackay [1996]; Victoria University [2000-2001]; School of Art, Environment Studio, ANU [2003-4].
- Specifics:** Script and text work; play analyses; acting theory; theatre history; understanding global contemporary theatre-making. Workshops, productions and intensives; script writing; improvisation and ensemble training; performance-making. Classical to contemporary repertoire. Extensive student mentoring.
- 1991 ff BodyEcology workshops, teaching & performance--Wollongong
- 1986-87 tutor, Australian Theatre for Young People; and The Actor's Centre, Sydney.

Professional Performance engagements [in the ACT] since 2009:

- 2018 Actor, Hive script development programme, *Irene's Wish* by David Cole [dir. Dene Kermond]; The Street Canberra
- 2017 Movement director, *Cold Light* by Frank Moorhouse [dir. Caroline Stacey], Street Theatre Canberra.
- 2016 [*initiator*] *The Compassion Plays* participatory performance event, created for Inaugural Ralph Indie Residency, Gorman Arts Centre [performer, writer and director]
- 2015 Actor, *The Chain Bridge* by Tom Davis, Street Theatre Canberra November [dir. Caroline Stacey] [character played 20s-40s-70 yrs in age, in two languages and two cultural landscapes]
- 2015 *Anthems and Angels*, script-based work on the experience of exile, development at the Street [writer, director]
- 2013&15 [*initiator*] *L'Optimisme*, solo, self-devised performance, on the life of Jane Avril—businesswoman, dancer at the Moulin Rouge and muse to Toulouse-Lautrec. Avril suffered from a movement disorder [Huntington's Chorea], most probably caused by beatings she suffered as a child. Created for the National Gallery of Australia *Enlighten* Festival, March 2013, re-presented @ DANscienCE Week, CSIRO 2013 & Brisbane 2015; scheduled ahead for Liz Lea's BOLD Festival 2019.
- 2014: Facilitator, EPA [the Environmental Performance Authority] *Body Of Water*, site-specific ensemble intervention on the banks of the Yarra River for the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival.
- 2012 Actor, *Under Milk Wood* [dir. Dianna Nixon], Street Theatre, Canberra—multiple roles.
- 2009: Librettist, *Capital*, an opera composed by Fiona Fraser, on Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahoney Griffin, work-in-progress, Street Theatre, Canberra.
- 1991-5: Movement consultant, Theatre South & various Wollongong University teaching programme productions

CCD [Community cultural development]

- 2018 [*initiator*] CULTURE HUB: creation of a culture 'village' with the local South Sudanese diaspora, in partnership with the north Canberra Dinka community, Radford College, Anglicare, St Paul's Ginnindera & School of Art and Design, University of Canberra; recipient of \$10,000 seed funding from the Office of Multicultural Affairs
- 2015-18 Performer and co-devisor, *shorflatlongblackwhite* with *Somebody's Aunt* [performance group of older women] on refugee issues. *You Are Here* Festival 2015; in Smith's Alternative Bookshop, Refugee Week 2015; re-staged in Smith's, September 2017 and Feb 2018.
- 2016 [*initiator*] Playing Field Studio, ACT Community artist residency with mid-wife Jo Watson
- 2014-17 Mentor/facilitator with the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project [PFFP-MP]. Project includes members of the Forgotten- and Stolen- Generations who were incarcerated in the Parramatta 'orphanage' for most of their teenage years.
- a) Performance collaborator, *It's Time for Transparency* by and with writer Jenny McNally; [PFFP-MP] *Living Traces* exhibition @ PFF Precinct, Sept 24, 2016.

b) Film of ITFT shown at *Setting the Record Straight* National Summit, Federation Square, Melb, 8-9 May, 2017.

[Professional] development of *Anthems and Angels* and *The Compassion Plays*: collaborative performance project on the experience of refugees:

- 2016 *[initiator]* ***The Compassion Plays***, a participatory performance event, created as part of the inaugural Ralph Indie residencies, Gorman Arts Centre, November 2016. The production included members of the Canberra South Sudanese refugee community. [Production budget: \$28,000]. Moneys sourced from crowd funding, private sponsorship, and Monash University. Performers Zsuzsi Soboslay, CS Carroll, Robin Davidson; designer Imogen Keen; videographer Sam James; sound artist Kimmo Vennonen; musicians Richard Johnson [sax and clarinet], bassist Ben Drysdale, guitarist/singer/composer Jess Green.
- 2014-15 *[initiator]* immersive presentation of *Anthems and Angels*, Act I: scripted theatre work, supported by the Street Theatre, Canberra, with development funding ArtsACT [\$17,500]. Actors: Dene Kermond, Clare Moss; musicians: Steve Fitzgerald [percussion] and Melbourne bassist/soloist/composer Nick Tsiavos
- 2013 ff *[initiator]* Development work with percussionist Timothy Constable [AD of Synergy Percussion, Sydney], trumpeter Zach Raffan and filmmaker Mike Chin.
- 2013 Selected participant, national Kultour (intercultural arts) Gathering Brisbane
- 2011-12 *[initiator]* Artists' Residency, Canberra Dance Theatre—with 7 musicians, including countertenor Tobias Cole, soprano/cabaret singer Jacqui Reid, percussionist/singer Timothy Constable, percussionist Steve Fitzgerald, trumpeter/actor Zach Raffan, Saxophonist Ian Blake, violinist Jenny Gaul.
- 2011 3-month Scholars and Artists research residency, National Film and Sound Archive

Special awards

- 2022 City of Albany WA Vancouver Arts Centre Residency to develop ground-up, community-centred project: long-term CCD project; dates under negotiation.
- 2017 Australia Council Community Cultural Development Grant to attend the Counterpointsarts International Refugee Arts conference, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK [\$7,800 grant]
- 2016 *Anthems and Angels* Script, long-listed for the Lesley Scalopino Award for Innovative Women Performance Writers (New York City)
- 2016 *Anthems and Angels* Script, Finalist, ADAA/Saroyan Human Rights Playwriting Award, Armenia
- 2015 Australia Council CCAD grant: 3-mth secondment with Entelechy.org participatory arts company, London [\$12,000]
- 2015-18 Parramatta Artists' Studios Residency awarded to support my involvement in the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct Memory Project.
- 2012-17 Monash University Postgraduate Scholarship [PhD]
- 1997: Australia Council grant [\$60,000] to produce *The Awakenings Project*, The Performance Space, Sydney.
- 1996: Australia Council Development Grant [\$7,000] to study with Hakutobo and Kishidajimusho + Rakutendan theatre companies in Japan

Collaborative, teaching and mentoring work with dancers and musicians:

- 2018 *[initiator]* Specialist work with the *Composing Women* [Masters' Degree] cohort under the guidance of Professor Liza Lim at the NSW Conservatorium of Music University of Sydney.
- 2016 Writer in residence, *Strange Attractor* dance development platform, Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centers
- 2015 Co-director, major concert of works by Xenakis and Pateras with Synergy Percussion at Carriageworks Sydney
- 2011 Co-director, Synergy Percussion at Angel Place, Sydney: Winner of the ABC Limelight Award for Best Concert.
- 2009 Recipient of Bundanon artist Residency—initiating BodyEcology process work and stagecraft with percussionist Timothy Constable.
- 1997 Workshops @ Centre for Performance Studies, University of Sydney, with composer Liza Lim and Michael Askill [percussion]

Collaborative work in Galleries, and with visual artists and ecologists:

- 2018: *The Portrait Piper*, a performative tour of the Gallery with flautist Eliza Shephard, Spring Festival, National Portrait Gallery, October
- 2018 with visual artist Sally Adair and musician Richard Johnson: **Ventilate @ Contour 556**, East Space Gallery, Commonwealth Place, Lake Burley Griffin [Oct]; and **Locus @ ANCA studios** [March]
- 2018 finalists, Tom Bass Sculpture Prize, July 2018 @ Juniper Hall, Paddington [with weaver Anne Miron and sounds artist Clive Bourne]—photo-document and installation of co-created performance work
- 2017 with Anne Miron @ Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve Gallery-- photo-document and installation
- 2017 with Miron and Bourne @ Craft ACT Gallery--live performance on the life cycle of the Ginnini Frog
- 2014-16 with Kirstie Rea and Paul McKee for Craft ACT @ Gudgenby Ready Cut Cottage, and Craft ACT.
- 2013 Writer residency, Gudgenby Ready-Cut Cottage, Namadgi National Park [CraftACT initiative]
- 2003-5 Teaching student cohort at the Environment Studio, ANU, under course direction of Dr John Reid.

Other employment

- 1994-2018 Editor and senior reviewer across art-forms--over 400 reviews for *Real Time*; other publications include *Canberra Times*; *Art Monthly*; *Performance/Research Journal*(Cardiff); *Writings on Dance* <http://www.bodyecology.com.au/writing/>
- 1997: invited as writer with RealTime team to review over the month of London's International Festival of Theatre [LIFT]

From 2005-12, I was engaged as a curator in several museum projects, including

- 2012: Curator, *Trial Bay Gaol* (northern NSW) permanent exhibition, 2012
2007: Curator, *Olympic Cities* Old Parliament House, Canberra, 2007;
2006: Curator, *The Centenary of the Griffin Plan*, New Parliament House, 2006.
2005: Curator & documentary film-maker, *Bonegilla: The Migrant Experience*, permanent exhibition at the Heritage-listed, Bonegilla Migrant Reception and Training Centre, outside Albury-Wodonga, 2005
2006: catalogue editor, *People of the Cedar* NW Coast Canadian Indigenous Masks, National Museum of Australia
Other exhibitions include *Beaconsfield Museum*, *Albury Regional Library*, *Sydney Water*.

Panels, networks, presentations:

- 2018 Member, Canberra PAN Play Activation Network [Chair: Cathy Hope]
2018 Presenter, *Thinking Bodies/Moving Minds*, Melbourne September 2018:
2018 Participant, City Renewal Authority Urban Art Strategy workshops @ AGAC with FORM consultants [Perth]
2018 Moderator, DANscienCE forum Parramatta Riverside Theatres, May 2018,
2018 Presenter *Dance Activism* panel, Dance Week, Gorman Arts Centre, May 2018.
2016 Opening speaker, launch of exhibition of works by glass artists Kirstie Rea ["Interior Terrains' and Holly Macdonald ["About Place'] @ Sabbia Galleries, Sydney
2016 Panel member, 'The Big Flight': ABC RN "Big Ideas' forum, with Paul Barclay [recorded, Street Theatre, Canberra, podcast available at <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/bigideas/artistic-reponses-to-migration-and-the-refugee-crisis/7488082>
2015 Moderator/chair, *Segue: Delve Deeper: working between cultures* forum, Street Theatre Canberra, collaboration with the Department of European Studies, ANU: guest speakers included the directors/writers/performers Lech Mackiewicz [Poland/Aust], Ninna Tersman [Sweden/Aust.], and Paulo Castro and John Romeo [Portugal/Aust]. May 2015.
2010 Opening speaker, *Gudgenby: Traces*, featuring the works of textile artists Paull McKee and glass artist Kirstie Rea, Craft ACT Craft and Design Centre, May.

Future projects*:

- 2020* [*initiator*] project manager and chief artist, 'How rainforest talk' for primary children, Australian National Botanical Gardens for 2020 new Glasshouse opening [projected budget: \$25,000]
2019-22* [*initiator*] Culture Hub Phase II: Extension of the Dinka project into an ArtsXChange, in partnership with West Belconnen Family & Children's Centre, Belconnen Arts Centre, Kippax Uniting Church, University of Canberra and Rebus Theatre, and a cohort of 15 professional Canberra artists [pending \$100,000 grant from Australia Council].
2019* [*initiator*] project manager and chief artist, 'Moonwalk Memories'--collaborative project with Namadgi High School, Parks ACT, NASA, CDT 'GOLDS', local communities in the Tidbinbilla area, and indigenous collaborators [awarded ACT Heritage grant of \$38,700]

** in the event of being offered the position of AD at CYT, my role in these three projects can be adjusted.*

Voluntary work:

- all forums/panels listed
all community development project partnerships—meetings and planning
2017 ff: member, Play Activation Network, ACT
2016 ff: member, Canberra Artists' Action group
2016 ff: work with North Canberra South Sudanese community [800+ voluntary hours, March-Nov 2018]
2014 Board Member, Playing Field community arts space, Acton, ACT
2012-13 Board member, Turner Primary School
2009: 'Shake it out' sessions with Year 2 students, Turner Primary
2011 ff mentor, mentor/dramaturge *with* dance and performance artists and musicians [ongoing]

Publicity Reviews [of The Compassion Plays, Nov 2016]

- Jane Goodall, for RealTime
<http://www.realttimearts.net/article/135/12455>
John Lombard, for Canberra City News:
<http://citynews.com.au/2016/review-unpacking-migrant-experience/>
Hayden Fritzlaff, for Scissorspaperpen
<https://scissorspaperpen.org/2016/11/29/review-anthems-angels-the-compassion-plays/>

Training [includes]

- with Action Learning Facilitators UK [2012—Australia Council-funded Women-in-Theatre and intercultural practitioners' training programme];
- *BodyMind Centering* [BMC] workshop with Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen [Sydney, 2017].
- Ongoing mentorship with Entelechy.org in London in participatory practices
- Ideokinesis; *Bouffon* [with Phillippe Gaulier]; character mask [with Sian Newey]; Butoh [with Yoko Ashikawa and Akeno Ashikawa—Australia and Japan]; Teatro Del'IRAA; very early training with The Rocks Players, Sydney.
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Blogs: <http://zsuzsacsardasinlondon.blogspot.com/2015/07/post-1-intro-ambience-jam-elders-and.html>

Website: <http://www.bodyecology.com.au/>

<http://www.bodyecology.com.au/community-development/>