

Brown's Mart BUILD UP Recipients' Feedback

As a 2013 Build Up recipient for my play Broken, I can safely say the rigorous two-week development with director and actors in addition to the dramaturgy fee – all provided by Build Up funds - were pivotal in shaping my play.

Broken went on to win the Victorian Premiere's Literary Award, the 2014 NT Literary Award for best script and was shortlisted for the 2014 Griffin Theatre Award. It premiered at Browns Mart Theatre in 2015. This Browns Mart season sold out and Broken will now have a 2016 return Darwin Festival season plus a separate 2016 production in Sydney at Darlinghurst Theatre. Additionally, Currency Press will publish Broken in 2016.

There is no doubt in my mind that all of these highlights came as a direct result of the two-week Build Up initiative, which put the early script through its paces to become the best it could possibly be. I thank Browns Mart for this script development support, and sincerely hope they receive funding for future Build Up initiatives – from a purely selfish perspective of wanting to apply again so that [if successful] I can put my new play through the same rigorous development steps, to also make it the best it can possibly be;; but also because this initiative has been pivotal in the formation and growth of stronger, locally told stories for the stage. Top End theatre has never been this strong – and it continues to grow, much of this positive growth a direct result of the Browns Mart Build Up program which empowers local theatre makers to shape their work into more crafted, stronger stories.

Mary Anne Butler Knock-em-Down Theatre

The second stage of Read My Lips was supported by the 2014 Brown's Mart BUILD UP program. BUILD UP was instrumental in the development of Read My Lips, providing not only much needed financial support but also a base for the artists to meet and work, and access to the very valuable advice and production support from the team at Brown's Mart. BUILD UP enabled the Read My Lips artists to clearly shape their work and attract support to complete the project, while building local Darwin CALD audiences.

BUILD UP has had the added affect of nurturing my development as an independent producer, providing a safe environment for me to create new work that links Northern Territory and Asian artists.

A big thank you to Brown's Mart for running this fantastic program and supporting the development of homegrown NT work!

Fiona Carter Yum Cha Arts



I was supported in developing my work *Tent* through Brown's Mart's BUILD UP program in October 2015.

This program allowed us to focus dedicated and uninterrupted energy toward developing a new and innovative model of practice for theatre and community development in remote communities. It allowed us to hire and collaborate with various artistic professionals from the Northern Territory, sharing skills and knowledge, and working to create a high quality artistic product.

In terms of artistic practice it enabled me to spend two weeks, paid, exploring the realms of my practice as an applied theatre artist and community development worker. In a field that is still finding its feet, and gaining recognition in Australia, I often spend disproportionate amounts of time either working and utilising my specialised knowledge and artistic practice for little to no money, or trying to justify why I should be paid for it. To have the opportunity of two fully funded weeks to put this knowledge into practice is extremely rare and valuable, and has allowed me to develop a framework through which I can generate work in the future.

Rachel Small

I was supported in developing my work *The Swagman's Ghost* through Brown's Mart's BUILD UP program in 2014.

This program allowed me to work in person with a director, who came up from Sydney, whom I would not have otherwise been able to work with. It also allowed some local actors, as well as a dramaturge, to help develop the work.

In terms of artistic practice it enabled me to understand the play in a more complete context, and how scripts evolve through the influences of actors, dramaturge, musicians, and director. This caused *The Swagman's Ghost* script (and the whole work) in general to evolve greatly.

The project has since gone on to more development, and plans to perform the play in 2016.

The BUILD UP program has been fundamental in the development of local stories and articulating the local voice. Browns Mart is the life blood of Darwin's theatre culture.

Levin A. Diatschenko



Creature of Habit is a collaborative ensemble [7 emerging and re-emerging artists] that was supported in developing not only as an ensemble but developing their debut work 'Creatures of Habit' through Brown's Mart's BUILD UP program in April of 2014

This program allowed the ensemble time to collaborate together, and combine artistic talents into a theatrical piece. The program gave value to the work we were trying to create and encouraged us to strengthen the professionalism of our practice.

In terms of artistic practice BUILD UP enabled the ensemble to work with an established local director to put together their visions of a collaborative show and gain understanding in developing narrative and strong characters. It also enabled us to work with an established local choreographer to support and build our choreographic practice.

The project provided us the opportunity to prepare work ready for a production in May 2014, and the collective has since gone on to develop a another production which was showcased in December 2015.

The BUILD UP program has been an integral part to the developing theatre scene over the past three years. It has provided a platform to support new local work across a variety of theatrical genres. Many of the works have explored the themes and stories relevant to a local audience.

Aimee Gray Creatures of Habit