



## **Green Stage Design Forum**

**25 July 2012**

**Queensland Theatre Company**

### **Facilitators:**

Lisa Erhart	Dynamic Eco-Solutions
Suzanne Daley	Live Performance Australia

### **Attendees:**

Tanja Beer (Guest Speaker)	Freelance Designer and PhD candidate
Leonie Lee	Production Manager, Queensland Ballet
Bill Haycock	Freelance Designer
Libby Ellis	ArTour
Don McKenzie	Production Manager, La Boite Theatre Co
Julian Masser	Production Assistant, QTC
Shari Irwin	Program Coordinator, QTC
Emma Kelly	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Kylie Ashton	Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Sam Nicolosi	Creative Industries Skills Council (Qld)

### **Presentation – Tanja Beer**

Refer presentation slides

Key points from discussion during presentation:

- Production Manager should walk the Designer through the workshop/ storage area at commencement of design process so designer can utilize existing materials as much as possible.
- Designer can specify the use of particular materials and products in collaboration with the production manager and/or builder. Specifications of finishes and products can be written into technical drawings to act as a contract.



- Encourage conversations between the Production Manager and Designer about what happens with the set after bump out. Designers should always try to design with the post-production stage in mind.
- Make it company policy to encourage the reuse of existing in-house materials.
- Designers should understand the standard sizes of in-house items and maximize re-use potential (eg sheet size, rostra)

### **Green materials**

Attendees looked at a sample of XBoard

(<http://www.resolutionimaging.com.au/XBoard>) as a possible option for more sustainable set building.

As XBoard is partially made from cardboard, it would be adversely affected by water based fire retarding. LPA/ Lisa to explore whether XBoard can be fire retarded in manufacturing process.

LPA agreed to research how fire retardancy requirements vary from state to state.

Dollars are a big factor in resource restrained companies. If a sustainable product or process is as cost effective as the existing product or process, then it will be adopted.

Green material suppliers are looking for distributors in Australia – but they need to make the numbers add up.

There is a lot that we can learn about sustainable materials from exhibitions, interiors and architecture design. These industries have progressed a lot further than we have.

Any prototype material needs testing time – which can be challenging in the short cycle live performance environment.

Attendees agreed that an Australian version of the Mo'Olelo Performing Arts Company [Green Theater Choices Scorecard](#) would be very valuable. Or a materials database that is collaborative and open source and builds industry knowledge along the way.

A register of preferred materials suppliers by region would also be very useful.



There is a specialist green paint supplier in West End (Brisbane)

<http://www.greenpaintshop.com.au>

Also agreed that LPA should invite green materials suppliers to the next forum for a QandA session about their products.

### **Recycling and Disposal**

There are unique considerations associated with disposing of sets and props which are like a piece of art. Consider selling/ giving to a theming company or scenery hire business.

Recyclers will take metal for free.

Can also recycle items through separate skips from Reverse Garbage (<http://www.reversegarbage.com.au/>) and Green Skips.

### **Training**

The group agreed that sustainability principles and skills need to be embedded into industry training. There isn't enough knowledge at the moment to incorporate sustainability into design.

Training will help address inadvertent greenwashing as well. Companies might think they are doing the right thing in using a more sustainable product – but they may not have taken into account the carbon miles associated with importing it from overseas, or that it can no longer be recycled after being painted/ fire retarded.

Attendees advised that budget constraints and time are the two main constraints to undertaking training.

Attendees suggested that sustainability basics should be incorporated into the Entertainment Industry Safety Induction Card training currently being developed.

LPA to consider taking a booth or running a seminar at future industry events like EnTech to provide a central discussion point for sustainability issues.

### **Measurement**

Lisa talked attendees through the Production Monitoring Worksheet she developed for the La Boite Indie group. Julian from QTC offered to complete worksheets for QTC productions this year.



### **Action Items**

- LPA to research how fire retardancy requirements vary from state to state.
- Next session to include product presentations from suppliers of sustainable/ recyclable products like XBoard
- LPA to upload Broadway Green Alliance sustainable set design slides and Mo'Olelo Green Materials Scorecard to website.
- LPA and Lisa will continue dialogue with QUT/ NIDA/ VCA/ WAAPA about incorporating sustainability into design curriculum.
- LPA to explore incorporating sustainability basics into the new Live Performance industry Safety Induction Card training.
- LPA to consider establishing a Facebook group to promote future GLP forums to freelance designers.