

ZANNY BEGG | *These Stories Will be Different*

PUBLIC PROGRAM IDEAS

UNSW Galleries brings together three distinct and significant major works by Australian contemporary artist and filmmaker Zanny Begg through this touring exhibition. Each work brings different stories and experiences to the fore, with Begg's socially engaged practice drawing on archival research, community collaboration and political issues. Below are some public programming suggestions aligned with each of the films. Please speak to M&G NSW staff if you are interested in presenting any of these programs, or if you have ideas about other audience engagement or education strategies that you feel will suit your community.

THE BEEHIVE, 2018

The Beehive consists of scripted fictions, documentary interviews and choreographed scenes with multiple actors playing the role of Juanita. The film is ever-changing, as a different combination of the footage is randomly selected for each screening with 1,344 possible variations. The work presents a kaleidoscopic portrait of Juanita Nielsen and is an exploration of issues (and experiences) of corruption, housing justice, non-conventional lifestyles and gentrification then and now.

UNSW Galleries presented this work with a suite of public programming titled 'Radical Sydney'. Below is a selection of programs that may be adaptable to your space and your community:

Learning from the Green Bans - Panel discussion & screening

Discussion with an esteemed panel of speakers including historian Rowan Cahill; feminist and anti-racism activist Dr Meredith Burgmann; independent filmmaker and ex-builders labourer Pat Fiske; and activist and builders labourer Andy Mason who discussed the legacy of the Green Bans activism today (image right). Following the panel, Pat Fiske introduced a screening of her documentary *Rocking the Foundations 1986*, that chronicles this important history.

Panel Discussion: Sydney Subcultures and Club-cultures

From Les Girls to Monsta Gras, alternative club culture in Sydney continues to be an important platform for community-building and the development of experimental performance practices. Within the context of gentrification and shifting urban dynamics, this panel discussion will explore the significance and precarity of Sydney's club nights and venues from the 1970s to now.

Moderated by artist, curator and publican Emma Price, speakers included costume designer, founding member of queer artist collective Glitter Militia and co-creator of Montsa Gras with collaborator Justin Shoulder, Matt Stegh; as well as the co-founders of Club Kooky DJ Gemma and Johnny Seymour.





Walking Tour with Julie Bates: Shine a Light

Sex worker rights activist Julie Bates AO took participants on a tour of Kings Cross and East Sydney (see above) through the lens of her own activism and experience working and living in the area. This mini tour was based on Bates' live street-based performance *The Joy Tour*, depicting the days of Tilly Devine and the birth of the sex worker rights movement in inner Sydney.

Panel Discussion: Keep Sydney Public

The media furor surrounding use of the Sydney Opera House sails for advertising highlights larger tensions around the use of public space. Bringing together architects, anti-gentrification activists, sociologists and cultural commentators, this panel discussion explored the argument for maintaining Sydney's public housing, spaces and infrastructure. Moderated by artist Ian Millis the panel included: architect and urban designer Professor Philip Thalys; sociologist Eva Cox AO; local activist and resident Julie Cooper; and Aboriginal rights activist Bronwyn Penrith.

Panel Discussion: Justice for Juanita

Joined by a range of Juanita's contemporaries and others for whom Juanita's disappearance has remained of great interest, exhibiting artist Zanny Begg moderated a discussion around whether justice for Juanita Nielsen is possible and what this might look like today or in the future. Zanny Begg was joined by 'Killing Juanita' author Peter Rees; business partner, friend and lover of Juanita Nielsen, David Farrell; and investigative journalist Wendy Bacon.

Digital Presentation Options: These programs can all be adapted to local issues specific to different regions and hosted online, increasing reach and inclusion of participants and presenters from further afield if travel is not possible.

THE CITY OF LADIES, 2017

The City of Ladies is a video installation comprised of semi-randomly generated fragments of a film made in collaboration with young activists and feminists in Paris. Each time the film is screened these fragments will compile in different ways creating over 300,000 possible narratives inviting multiple readings of feminism.

The project is inspired by the fifteenth century proto-feminist novel of the same name by France's first professional female writer Christine de Pizan. *The City of Ladies* was written in 1402 and creates a utopian city built, populated and governed by women. de Pizan aimed to subvert masculine versions of history by describing, what she called, feminania, a pro-female view of the world.

Video creation workshop

Zanny Begg can present a video creation workshop aimed at young people or adult audiences, pending her availability. Zanny would be able to work with you to tailor a program to suit your community.

Feminist School Workshop

When originally created in Paris, a Feminist School was held to explore the themes within *The City of Ladies* and expand notions of Feminist thinking and practice. If you can identify a group within your community that you feel would like to engage with a similar program led by Zanny Begg, we can help to shape something with you.

Digital Presentation Option: Online Feminist School Workshop

This Feminist School could be held online, and if so, could bring in some of the thinkers and leaders that influenced this workshop when it was held in Paris.



The City of Ladies (still) 2017, by Zanny Begg with Elise McLeod, courtesy and © the artists, photo Federique Baraja.

STORIES OF KANNAGI, 2019

Stories of Kannagi tells a story within a story: A young women's struggle to save her husband from deportation and the 2000 year old story of the Goddess Kannagi's troubled marriage. The two stories mirror each other before collapsing inwards in an exploration of love and forced migration. Commissioned by STARTTS (Service for the Treatment And Rehabilitation of Torture and Trauma Survivors) and created in collaboration with members of the Tamil community in Western Sydney.

Engagement with local Sri-Lankan Tamil Community

Jiva Parthipan, Cultural Development Officer at a STARTTS, was heavily involved in the creation of *Stories of Kannagi* and has strong ties to diverse Tamil communities throughout Australia. Jiva may be able to guide you in engaging the local Tamil community in your region or in developing a relationship with the local STARTTS centre,

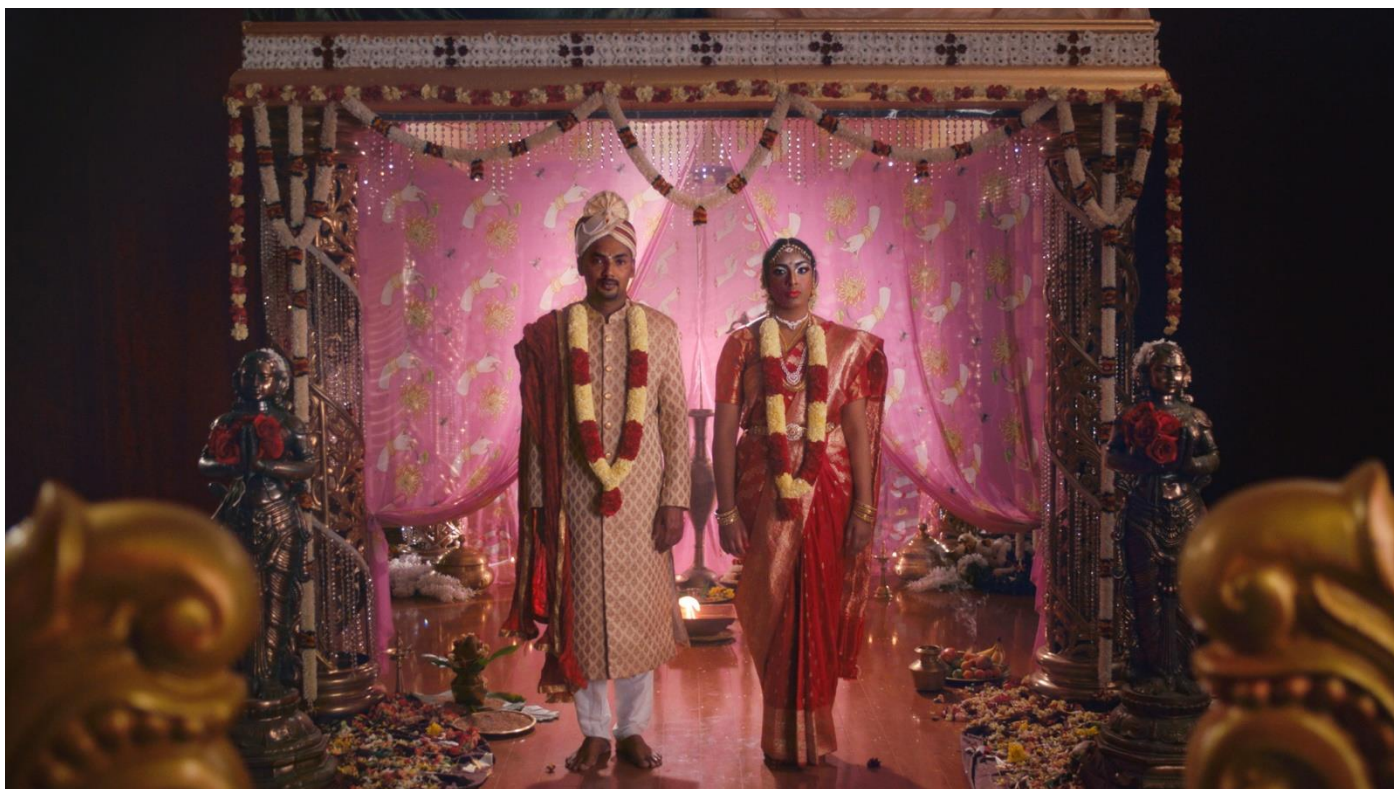
located in many regional centres, to provide a platform for the exploration and presentation of community-led programming.

Writer-led workshops

Stories of Kannagi features Sri Lankan Tamil writers Niromi de Soyza, Shankari Chandaran and Srisha Sritharan, who all engage with language and storytelling in different ways. The potential of writing workshops with one or all of these writers is a public program that can be arranged with enough lead time.

Digital Presentation Option: Writer-led Workshop

This writing workshop could be held online, and if so, could bring in audiences outside of your immediate community



Zanny Begg, *Kannagi* (production still), 2019, 15mins, single channel HD video

A UNSW Galleries and Museums & Galleries of NSW touring exhibition

