

KULTAR AHLUWALIA

Kultar Ahluwalia is a multidisciplinary hip hop artist from Southern Adelaide with Punjabi and Irish roots. At a young age coming to terms with his identity, Kultar found wisdom in the empowering words of revolutionary hip hop artists. Kultar has been releasing and performing music over the last two decades. More recently, Kultar began creating works under his birth name. In 2023, Kultar was selected as one of six artists in the Nexus Arts Interplay Program. During his time in the program, Kultar created a new stage show and accompanying EP “The Mixed- Race Tape”. In 2024, “The Mixed-Race Tape” premiered at OzAsia Festival across two capacity shows at Nexus Arts to glowing reception. In 2025 and 2026, Kultar has been touring “The Mixed-Race Tape” for a run of successful showings at Darwin Festival, OzAsia, Riverside Theatres, Red Dirt Poetry Festival and in schools with more festival appearances to be announced. Kultar has also been busy in recent months developing new works through residencies at Adelaide Festival Centre (April 2026, InSpace) and Sauerbier House culture exchange (July-August 2026). Outside of his independent arts career, Kultar is an Occupational Therapist with over a decade of experience working with children, youth and families. Kultar combines his arts, community engagement and health experience in his role at Nexus Arts supporting and mentoring the next cohort of Interplay artists and as an independent workshop facilitator for organisations such as City of Onkaparinga, ActNow Theatre and Spoken Word SA.

NANCY BATES

Nancy Bates is a Barkindji Song Woman with Ancestral ties to communities along the Baaka (the Darling River), a singer-songwriter whose work fuses country, folk, and soul with fearless storytelling. A former guitarist and vocalist with the late Archie Roach, she toured nationally and internationally, including Festival Interceltique de Lorient (France), carrying forward a lineage of truth-telling through song. In 2025, Nancy showcased at the International Indigenous Music Summit (Toronto) and wrote the theme song “Panic Yes/No” for Ars Electronica (Austria) performing multiple times in Linz across the festival. She is the founder of Blak Country, presented at Adelaide Guitar Festival 2024 & 2025 and Country Arts SA regional tour in 2025, centring First Nations intergenerational voices on major stages. Nancy played a key creative role in the award-winning film *Songs Inside*, a powerful portrait of music holding women through incarceration. Her live reputation is formidable: “A voice that stops the room—pure, powerful, and profoundly moving” (The Advertiser); “An artist of rare truth and beauty” (Adelaide Review). Career highlights include Runner-Up, Listen Up Australia Songwriting Prize, Adelaide Festival Walk of Fame, and a Tina Arena Special Impact Award nomination (AWMA). Sovereign, soulful, and globally resonant, Nancy Bates stands among the leading Indigenous voices shaping contemporary Australian music.

GEORGINA CHADDINGTON

Georgina Chadderton is a queer and neurodivergent comics-maker living on Kurna Country in South Australia. Her debut graphic novel, *Oh Brother*, was published simultaneously in four territories by Penguin Random House in February 2026. It is a memoir about growing up with her brother Rob, who is autistic and has an intellectual disability. *Oh Brother* was a Junior Library Guild Gold Selection. Her previous short comics have been published in anthologies and literary journals in Australia and internationally. They have seen her twice nominated for an Express Media Award for best comic and shortlisted for the Comic Arts Awards of Australia.

The Forum - Team Bios

Georgina took part in the Comic Art Workshop in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2022. During this period, she also received the Colin Thiele Creative Writing Scholarship and the Ian Wilson Memorial Fellowship, and was an artist-in-residence at Milktooth, 100 Story Building, and MOD. In 2018, her work was included in an exhibition showcasing the best of Australian comics held in Lodz, Poland. This exhibition travelled to Germany in 2020 and was exhibited at the Australian Embassy in Berlin, and Thailand in 2022 at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. She has been an invited guest at many national and international events, including Toronto Comic Arts Festival, the Women In Comics festival in Melbourne (appearing on a Q&A panel with international creators Hope Larson and Savanna Ganucheau), Ubud Writers & Readers Festival in Indonesia, and National Young Writers' Festival. When not making comics, Georgina is the co-director of the award-winning Papercuts Comics Festival, a biennial free community literary festival in Adelaide, South Australia, that celebrates all things comics and graphic novels.

ALYSHA HERRMANN

Alysha Herrmann lives, loves, and creates from regional South Australia as an independent creative producer, writer, performance-maker, and community organiser, and the co-founder of regional arts co-operative Part of Things. Alysha makes and produces installations, experiences, presentations, poetry, digital exchanges, performances, screen experiences and other creative things in all kinds of strange places, including real-life loungerooms, train stations and backyards. Alysha's work is grounded in community arts and cultural development practice and she is dedicated to nurturing opportunities for regional communities and emerging artists to connect, create and experiment. Alysha writes and creates experiences about vulnerability, community, hope, grief, forgiveness and belonging. Recent work includes *Where are you?* for Theatre Republic's Future: Present, *Writing the River Rising* for Country Arts SA, *Guthrak* for Under the Microscope, and *Bush Food Cook Off 3175* for Illuminart's Constellation. Her written work has been published by Routledge, UNSW Press, Currency Press, Saltbush Review, Griffith Review, Rochford Street Press and others. After multiple sidequests, Alysha graduated from Deakin University with First Class Honours in Creative Writing in 2024 and a GradCert (Creative Business) from University of Canberra in 2023. She has won multiple awards for her creative and community work, including the Kirk Robson Memorial Award, and the Geoff Crowhurst Memorial Ruby Award, and has worked in formal producing and programming roles for Country Arts SA, Carclew, Ramble Arts, Writers SA and others. Alysha currently serves on the boards of Outback Theatre for Young People and Carclew. She also works as a high school Arts & English teacher in regional SA and is the parent of two gender-diverse legends.

ANNABEL MATHESON

Annabel is a queer theatre artist and arts worker based on Kurna Land. She has studied with Flinders University (Bachelor of Creative Arts, Honors), UniSA (Master of Arts and Cultural Management), and Intimacy Directors and Coordinators (USA). She has worked with State Theatre Company SA, Sydney Theatre Company, MTC, Vitalstatistix, Theatre Republic, ArtPop, Windmill Production Company, Deus Ex Femina, AKA Productions, *isthisyour?*, and ActNow Theatre. She has served on assessment panels, and has functioned as a mentor and consultant in various capacities with organisations including CreateSA, Carclew, NIDA, and many independent artists and collectives. Annabel is an independent producer, and has worked on projects and programming for Vitalstatistix, Windmill, ActNow, Theatre Republic, and Feast Festival.