



Sydney's Chinese Junk in Tasmanian Arts Festival

Big hART Inc

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Suzy Wong is a well-know Chinese Junk that's been in Sydney since 1960. She was built in Hong Kong in 1959 and came out to Australia with two other Junks in 1960. They were a very unusual sight in those early days with many jokes made triggered by her different lines and sense of otherness. She has been in the Rankin family since 1963, after she sat unused on Sydney Harbour for most of her first three years. Over time the other two junks were lost – the larger one catching fire and the smaller one sinking.

Suzy Wong was home for the Rankin Family for 13 years on the Lane Cove River and became a fixture on Sydney Harbour for many years at events on the Harbour. Later she moved to live more quietly on the Hawkesbury River.

One of Suzy's most interesting projects occurred in 2006 – after the well publicized social disturbance at Cronulla Beach. Suzy Wong was used as part of a film project designed to help bring the community back together. Residents from different cultural backgrounds, who called Cronulla home were photographed by young people and films were shot showing the rich tapestry of the area. These films were then projected onto the sails of Suzy Wong as she sailed the foreshores of Sydney with music accompanying her graceful presence.

The project - called JUNK THEORY – was created by Big hART - the Tasmanian arts company which is based on the North West Coast. JUNK THEORY was a huge success at the Sydney Festival in 2007 and Suzy Wong also traveled to the Adelaide Bank Festival of the Arts in 2008 cruising around the Torrens (in very tight circles) presenting the same video installation. Now Ten Days on the Island Festival is taking this remarkable project to Hobart to open the festival in March 2009 at Constitution Dock, before cruising the Derwent, down to Huonville and then up the Tamar showing JUNK THEORY after dark over the ten days.

For more info www.junktheory.org



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