



**SYDNEY
FESTIVAL
2007**



MEDIA RELEASE

BIG *h*ART IN THE HOT SPOT AGAIN!

Building on the phenomenal success of last year's sold out *StickybrickS* for Sydney Festival, Big *h*ART returns with a new project based in Cronulla called –

JUNK THEORY

5 December 2006 – 26 January 2007

**“IT’S MUCH HARDER TO HURT SOMEONE
IF YOU KNOW THEIR STORY”**

The riots in Sydney last December put the Sutherland Shire on the international map, causing shock and heartache for Australians across the country. One year on, the world is still watching and waiting to see what will happen this time around in December. With the anniversary approaching, and continuing incidents of conflict, a group of young people from different cultural backgrounds in the Shire have taken the initiative with a new project that proves – **“it’s harder to hurt someone when you know their story”**.

Since the riots last year these young people have been meeting regularly, listening to each other’s story, listening to others in the community, and helping to create understanding, respect and empathy. They have been working with photographers, filmmakers, composers, older residents, shipwrights, seafarers, and local business in a project designed to build citizenship and create a strong picture of life in the Sutherland Shire. The result is a unique new multi media work for Sydney Festival, called **JUNK THEORY**.

By taking this initiative, the work of these young people will shine a light on the many and varied lifestyles and cultures enjoyed by people who call the Shire home. Last December, many lifestyles and cultures were ridiculed and abused and seen as being of less value than others. They became “junk”, something to be thrown away and trampled on. Through **JUNK THEORY**, young people from the Shire are showing the rest of Sydney that social harmony has to be built on understanding, and understanding comes from knowing each others story.

Every night at dusk from 5 December until 26 January, around the foreshores of Port Hacking, Botany Bay, Sydney Harbour and Pittwater, a Chinese Junk will glide past residents, pedestrians, festival goers and picnickers. Projected onto its sails will be a series of portraits and evocative images of people who live in Sutherland Shire, taken by people who live there. Shot in both colour and black and white, utilizing both still and moving image, the visual projections will be accompanied by music and sound scapes wafting from the vessel's decks. **JUNK THEORY** is designed to create a beautiful and thought provoking picture of the values and cultures that make up our Emerald City, whilst sailing around its beautiful waterways every night.

JUNK THEORY is being created by Big *hART* – a national arts and social change company that has been making work at the hardest edges of Australian communities since 1992. Big *hART* experiments with the process of making art with communities, and then placing this work in national and international festivals. Big *hART* is one of the most prolific companies in Australia, currently producing 7 new works of scale including *Ngapartji Ngapartji (Alice Springs)*– the hit of 2006 Melbourne International Arts Festival, and touring to Sydney Opera House and UWA Perth International Arts Festival; *Radio Holiday* (North West Coast Tasmania) touring to Melbourne International Arts Festival and Ten Days on the Island Festival; *Street Survivor* (Melbourne); *GOLD* (Griffith and the NSW wheat belt,); *Lucky and No Comply* (North West Coast Tasmania) and the Northcott project (Surry Hills).

Big *hART*'s ***Stickybricks*** – based at the Northcott Building in Surry Hills – was a sell-out sensation at the 2006 Sydney Festival and in 2007 Big *hART* returns with this new provocative work grounded in our city's ever changing social fabric.

JUNK THEORY has many partners, sponsors and contributors, and will be launched in Cronulla at Gunnamatta Bay on 5 December, 2006 at 8.30pm. During Sydney Festival **JUNK THEORY** will be stationary at four locations around Sydney – bring a picnic!

Contributing artists and producers:

Scott Rankin – Creator

Michelle Kotevski – Creative Producer

Keith Saunders – Photographer

Wei Zen Ho – Composer/Sound Artist

Michael Bates – Filmmaker

James Winter – Community Producer

Robert Iolini – Consulting Sound Artist

Phillip Mar – Researcher

Dates:

5 – 21 December, Bundeena – Botany Bay

6 – 26 January, Sydney Harbour – Pittwater

Specific sites:

Saturday 6 January at 8pm – Jubilee Park, Glebe

Friday 12 January at 8pm – Lavender Bay

Saturday 13 January at 8pm – Woolwich Dock, Clarke Road, Woolwich

Thursday 25 January 8pm – Fairlight Bay

Media information:

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Or visit the following websites:

www.junktheory.org

www.bighart.org



Australian Government



arts|nsw



Hazelhurst
REGIONAL GALLERY & ARTS CENTRE

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.