

## Multicultural Arts Victoria Staff



### **Jill Morgan, Chief Executive Officer**

Jill Morgan has worked extensively in multicultural and indigenous arts in Australia for over the past 20 years. Jill is presently the Executive Officer of MAV and was previously the Executive Director of Kulcha, Multicultural Arts of Western Australia. She has been an active cultural and community development worker in multicultural arts and has contributed significantly to multicultural arts policy development and strategies locally and nationally. She is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all Australians, including newly emerged communities and the right of all Australians to express and share their cultural heritage through the arts.

Jill has a proven track record in arts management and community cultural project development. She has coordinated many significant and highly successful community cultural development projects. She has worked at the Victorian College of the Arts and has established many significant partners for CALD arts both in Victoria and Western Australia. She has recently overseen the development of Mix It Up a significant partnership with the Arts Centre and Emerge, the community cultural development program at MAV and has worked closely with Anita Larkin, the artists and communities to develop this program. Jill has links to many artists, communities and organisations locally, nationally and internationally.



### **Anita Larkin, Artistic Program Manager**

Anita Larkin is a highly skilled cultural development worker and is currently the project coordinator of the Multicultural Arts Victoria's Emerge Cultural Network since its inception in 2004. With over 10 years experience as a professional musician, an extensive knowledge of the local multicultural arts scene and a strong passion for community cultural development, Anita has a proven ability to connect to new communities through their cultural ambassadors, the artists. Anita was recently awarded the George Fairfax Arts and Entertainment Management Scholarship due to her successful track record in cross cultural community arts activity.

Anita has successfully coordinated the Emerge Festival and established a significant cultural mentor program for new and emerging artists linking with professional artists. Anita has worked on and coordinated a number of other arts and community cultural development projects in the past for MAV including: Twilight World Jazz and Voice Series at Federation Square 2006, Mix It Up Africa! Concert at the Arts Centre 2006, Unidos Human Rights Festival at the Old Melbourne Gaol 2005, Eureka 150 Cultural Workshops, Arts Projects Australia 2004, Kultour national touring network for multicultural arts 2005 and VISIBLE arts mentorship program for emerging communities 2005- 2010. Anita has overseen the development of Emerge Cultural Hubs, MAV's Regional Cultural Development project. Anita was appointed the position of Artistic Program Manager at MAV in April 2012.



### **Paul Petran, Artistic Program Manager**

Born in Melbourne Australia to a Czech father and Slovak mother Paul has lived in Victoria all his life. He played in rock bands in the early seventies and studied Engineering at Monash University for a short time before music took over. Paul completed a Bachelor of Arts (Music major) at LaTrobe University in 1977 and started work at ABC Radio in October 1980. Paul presented and producer "Music Deli" on Radio National from 1986 up until December 2011 when he retired from the ABC. Music Deli led the way in broadcasting live performances of an incredibly diverse range of music styles to a national radio audience, and has been a major influence on music making in Australia. As a music producer, Paul has made over 1500 recordings, in studios as well as at concerts and music festivals around the country. Some of these recordings have been commercially released. In October of 2001, a recording engineered and produced by Paul - Mara! Live in Europe, won the ARIA award for best world/folk music release. Paul has represented ABC Radio at the European Broadcasting Union's International Folk Festival in 1999 and 2000. In 2001 he was invited as a specialist judge, to participate in the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival radio music feature competition. In recent years he has also managed tours of Australian bands to China, Germany and the Czech Republic.

Paul was a member of the Performing Arts Advisory Committee for Asialink in Melbourne from 2006 – 2010 and completed a four year term with the Australia Council for the Arts as a member of the Music Board (July 2004 to August 2008). In 2009, Paul received the Sidney Myer Performing Arts award for his exceptional contribution to Australia's cultural life. In 2012 Paul works as a freelance music and radio producer, and is trying to establish a small vineyard in the Macedon Ranges where he lives. Paul was appointed the position of Artistic Program Manager at MAV in April 2012.



### **Meg Larkin, Events & Operations Coordinator**

Meg Larkin has been working for Multicultural Arts Victoria for the past five years, and is currently the Events and Operations Coordinator. Meg manages the Mix It Up Public Programs partnership with the Arts Centre and coordinates MAV's Brokerage program. She has also instrumental in the Queen Victoria partnership and has programmed the Suziki Night Market for the past three years. Meg has also coordinated in partnership with the Victoria Multicultural Commission, the Premier's Gala Dinner; an annual showcase of Victoria's Diversity held at the Crown Palladium. Meg has a background in photography, and has photographed many MAV events.



### **Deshani Wickremasinghe, Administration, Publicity & Design**

Growing up in Sri Lanka, a country which has always been home to a multiethnic society, has given Deshani the experience to associate with people of all ethnicities and appreciate their many different works of art. Deshani has always been passionate about working in the community sector and has been volunteering with Tsunami relief work in Sri Lanka as well as facilitating art therapeutic workshops in war affected areas in the North of Sri Lanka. Deshani's background as an artist began at a young age as a ballet & contemporary dancer and has performed in many concerts & dance shows in Sri Lanka for over fifteen years. She is also currently running dance programs at the local community centre in Melbourne. She moved to Australia to pursue her Bachelors Degree in Design and has also worked in administration & customer service in Melbourne. At MAV, Deshani has been involved in coordinating projects for the Music Deli Concert Series and managing publicity campaigns across MAV programs and initiatives. With her skills as a designer, she has also contributed towards the graphic design of MAV promotional material.



### **Penne Thornton, Project Officer - Cultural Development and Youth**

Penne's career has grown from the arts through music, theatre, film, radio broadcast, and expanded into the multicultural community arts sector to include arts project management and event production. Arriving in Melbourne in 2003 after several years working in the UK, India and North America, Penne began her studies at Swinburne University in Costume Design. In 2007 she graduated from Screen Production at RMIT and worked as a crew member in camera department before her interests in culturally diverse communities saw her moving into multicultural community arts project management in 2010. Penne has crewed on several award winning short films and music videos, presented a radio program featuring indigenous and world music and performs as a DJ. She is a media educator and mentor to young people and has worked on youth projects both in Australia and overseas making her a great communicator between Melbourne's diverse communities.



### **Hung Nguyen, Finance, Office & ICT Manager**

Hung joined Multicultural Arts Victoria in late 2006. After finishing the Master of Accounting program from Swinburne University in 2005, Hung migrated to Australia in mid 2006. He has extensive experience in finance administration gained from many years working in large multinationals in Vietnam, South East Asia. He effectively contributed to the change of accounting system, processes and enhanced the quality of financial information. Hung has greatly supported to the Board of Management with timely provision of financial reports and analysis. Hung is also an associated member of CPA Australia and recently graduated from the CPA program.



### **Claudia Escobar, Marketing & Development Coordinator & Contemporary Cultures**

Claudia is a Colombian artist and arts manager based in Melbourne, Australia. She has devised and directed a series of performances, films, theatre works and visual arts projects with children raising spectres of childhood and war. In 2008 she co-founded EL TARRO, the smallest performing space in the world, dedicated for arts experimentation and new audience experiences with productions in Melbourne, Sydney, Bogota, San Francisco, Buenos Aires, Berlin, Cesena and Venice. In 2009 Escobar co-founded peopleartpeople, an organisation that links people

through the arts.

Claudia has over seven years of experience in arts management and has worked as a consultant for cultural management and policy development. Escobar is currently the Marketing, Development and Contemporary Cultures person at Multicultural Arts Victoria. She has undertaken several marketing research projects with special focus on culturally diverse audiences in Victoria including the Emerge Festival in Melbourne, the Emerge @ Drum Festival in Dandenong, and the Emerge Cultural Network in Shepparton. She recently visited the House of World Cultures in Berlin to initiate cultural connections between this world renowned cultural centre and MAV. Her qualifications include Master in Theatre Practice (2008), Graduate Diploma in Performance Creation (2007), Master in Management: Marketing (2005) and BA Industrial Design (2000). She was recently awarded with the Keith & Elisabeth Murdoch Travelling Fellowship and is the holder of the IPC Award, The University of Melbourne 2008, Carolina Oramas Scholarship 2007 and Orloff Family Charitable Trust Scholarship 2007. As a performance artist Claudia has recently performed in Sweat (Branch Nebula, 2010/2011) at the House of World Cultures (Berlin), Dance Massive (Melbourne) and Performance Space (Sydney). [www.claudiaescobar.com](http://www.claudiaescobar.com)



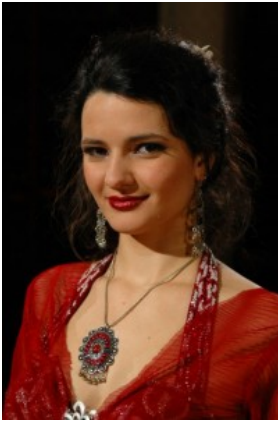
**Suzi Cordell, Emerge Cultural Hubs Coordinator** Suzi's background is in theatre, festivals and education, with a passion for Community and cultural development. Working across all areas of Project, Production and Stage Management, she has also worked extensively in schools in Visual and Performance Arts, and communities across Victoria and the Northern Territory. Suzi's recent work includes Project Management at Ilbjerri Theatre, Project / Project and Tour Management Melbourne Workers Theatre, Production Manager for The Old Van's regional tours of *Don*

*Koyote*, and *The Seal Wife*, and the Opening Ceremony for *Art at the Heart*, National Regional Arts Conference in Alice Springs. Suzi has worked with Tracks Dance in Darwin over the last 4 years as Production Manager for their Darwin Festival shows *You Dance Funny* in 2007, award winning *Struck*, *Endurance* and *The Cook the Queen and the Kelly*. Suzi has recently joined the team at Multicultural Arts Victoria as the Emerge Cultural Hubs Coordinator, and loving the opportunity to work with diverse communities across Victoria.



**Anne Harkin, Project Officer** Anne has been immersed in multiculturalism for many years working within the multicultural scene as a teacher & performer of traditional African & Arabic percussion, as an entrepreneur initiating performance opportunities for people of many cultural backgrounds, as a teacher of English as a Second language to migrants and international students, as a

designer and decorator of textiles and costumes. She has been active within MAV for the last couple of years helping coordinate volunteers, the marketplace and programs at the Black Harmony Gathering and Emerge Festival. Anne is currently completing her Postgraduate Diploma in Community Cultural Development at VCA and has a BA, DipEd and B Ed in language studies and linguistics.



### **Andrea Makris, Events & Operations**

Andrea has been working in the arts and entertainment industry since 1998. She graduated from UTS Bachelor of Communications course before completing an Arts Administration Traineeship with public relations firm *Education Image* in 1999. She then moved to Melbourne and worked in the Production, then Marketing Departments of *Zomba Records* for two years before completing a Certificate IV in Small Business Management and embarking into the world of business ownership. With a business partner she established what has become a Melbourne performing arts institution, *Underbelly Dance*, with a multi-studio premises, retail store, weekly courses, events, international tours and an entertainment agency. In this time, Andrea also established herself as a professional Middle Eastern dance instructor and performer, with many international and interstate performances under her belt. She downsized the business in 2009 but continues to develop the creative and performance element of her work and recently completed post-graduate study at Deakin University in Arts & Entertainment Management. She is now employed on a part-time basis by Multicultural Arts Victoria and is enjoying creating new networks and utilising both the creative and business sides of her brain.



### **Jess Fairfax, Projects Officer**

Born into a family of artists Jessica always knew her own life would be deeply rooted in the arts. After completing a degree in International Development, a year of which she spent studying in Argentina, becoming fluent in Spanish, singing in a band and falling in love with the music, she stumbled across a way of combining her passion for social justice and equality and her love for music and songwriting. She embarked on a research project about how the arts, in particular music, can be used as a grass-roots form of participatory development in refugee communities. As a result of this research paper, Jessica has become heavily involved in Australia's culturally diverse music scene and is now honoured to be part of the MAV team. On the side she is also managing two bands, whose roots lie in the sounds and rhythms of South America. She also presents and produces *Big Mob*, a weekly radio show on Melbourne's PBS FM showcasing Australian Indigenous artists and Australia's multicultural arts and music.



### **Trinidad Estay, Events & Operations**

Chilean born visual artist, Trinidad Estay has worked in different Art Organizations in Chile and Australia. She Migrated from Chile in August 2011. She has three years of experience working in arts education, two at the Museum of Contemporary Arts of Santiago, MAC, (2007-2009) as assistant of the education Department and one year at Gabriela Mistral Cultural Centre , GAM, as Teachers Program Coordinator. She also has experience working in Arts Management: she did an internship in the Programming department at MAC and she worked projects with Audience

Development area at GAM. In 2008 she won a grant from Chilean government to do an internship at the Tate Museum in Liverpool, England on Arts and Education. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Visual Arts at Universidad Finis Terrae, Santiago. Trinidad is the Heartlands Refugee Fine Art Prize 2012 Coordinator at MAV.



### **Dr. Rand Hazou, Theatre Internship**

Rand Hazou was born in Jordan. His family are from Jerusalem. Rand Hazou is a theatre practitioner and facilitator with experience working on a variety of professional creative projects. In 2004 Rand was commissioned by the UNDP to travel to the Occupied Territories in Palestine to work as a theatre consultant running workshops for Palestinian youths. In 2009 Rand was

awarded a PhD in Theatre and Drama at La Trobe University. His thesis examined the latest wave of political theatre in Australia dealing with Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Rand is the Project Leader for the '7arakat' Project. The '7arakat' or 'Harakat' project seeks to develop a series of theatre and performance initiatives between Australia and Palestine. The 7arakat project aims to achieve a series of goals over the next two years including; a survey of current approaches to theatre and performance-making in Palestine, a conference involving the participation of Palestinian and Australian theatre-makers and scholars, the facilitation of a creative theatre project involving Australian and Palestinian theatre-makers, as well establishing the groundwork for a range of other future artistic collaborations and productions such as tours, play-readings and creative workshops. Rand is currently undertaking his theatre internship at MAV.