

Philip Tarl Denson is a screenwriter and story consultant with a background in science and clowning, an obvious combination when you think about it. He enjoys his life in Wagait Beach, the Hollywood of the NT, with his amazing family and adopted dingo.

Sophie Kuswadi is 10 years old and likes dancing and cooking. She would like the world to know that there is a true God that they can trust.



Jill Pope is a writer, anthropologist and occasional creative producer preoccupied by questions of place, space and identity. She constantly feels torn between her transcontinental homes in Europe and Australia and finds joy in cooking and sharing meals with old and new friends.

Evan Keith is 17 years old, lives in Darwin, and is passionate about music and youth engagement in politics. Evan enjoys writing and performing music, and aspires to a career in the arts.



Marie Munkara loves to write, drink wine on the beach at sunset and be a social butterfly.

Nadem Turkia grew up in Jordan and Syria and is passionate about food and bringing people together. His true loves are Jesus, children, family and Darwin and he is looking forward to sharing his experience with Darwin people.



Sam Carmody is a Readings Prize-winning novelist from the rural coast of Western Australia. He is a life-long surfer with a deep love – and chronic phobia – of sharks, and is fascinated by all the things that swim beneath the surface of Australian life.

Mark Brustolin values community and the strength living in a community can bring through the art of sharing. He is often told that he's far too trusting of people and there has been times when it has not been a good experience, but the act of trusting has, and can, bring some amazing things into Mark's life.

DANCERS

Synta Routh is a dancer from Mackay passionate about expressing and creating art through movement. Her life consists of dance and videography and she strives to always step out of the box. The two young women (Ava and Jacqui) accompanying her are talented, beautiful and amazing. They all come from different circles but dance brings them together.

Express Studios is a local dance studio in Darwin that teaches multiple arts and Hip Hop culture. Founded by Triki who has no dance training but loads of experience from events, battles and crazy passed on breaking knowledge from around the world.

The Australian Japanese Association of the Northern Territory have been happily showcasing Japanese culture in Darwin for the last 29 years. Recently they have been especially enjoying sharing the Japanese folk dances Bon Odori, Tanko Bushi (Mining song) and Soran Bushi (Fishing song).

Erma Muller is proud of her Kiribati ancestry and has been dancing her whole life. She has never danced in a space like Parliament before but is honoured to share the *Congress* experience with her Aunt Rosa.



ABOUT THE SHOW

A citizens' assembly.

A curatorial match-making project across words, intention and representation.

A series of political first speeches from those often unheard.

The word congress comes from the Latin CON meaning together, and GRADI meaning to walk, which when joined becomes 'to meet'. A congress is an act of coming together. We live in a world of cacophony; the loud, the harsh and the violent dominate our airwaves. They drown out the stories of the people and communities all around us that are profound, tender and courageous.

Today, we are coming together to listen.

Collaborating with a cross section of our diverse community, *Congress* is a citizen's assembly and a platform for people to have their say and be heard. Connecting the personal with the professional, eight wordsmiths and eight citizens have collaborated to create the citizen's own first speech. These partnerships have been curated by All The Queens Men and Darwin Festival, guided by principles of diversity and inclusivity. These creative partnerships have generated inspiring personal visions for our collective future.

Program correct at time of printing

ALL THE QUEENS MEN

All The Queens Men create theatrical and participatory art experiences. They champion social equality and celebrate diverse communities through creative actions. Engaging 'everyday experts' in exciting and technically proficient art contexts and with over 30 years of combined experience, All The Queens Men have presented their work globally across arts festivals and other cultural contexts. Tristan and Bec met on the dance floor. allthequeensmen.net



Nick Roux (Composer, Lighting and Sound Design) is an artist working in sound and video.

Bosco Shaw (Set Design) is an artist working across lighting, set and installation design.

Rory Cadman Stage Manager

Thank You:

Felix Preval, Vanessa Wright and the entire Darwin Festival team, Erin Milne, Mikaela Simpson, Tracks Dance Company, Michael Trikilaris, Selene Bateman and Deirdre O'Brien.

We respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet, the Larrakia people. We pay respect to Elders past and present.

CITIZENS



Thomas Moorhead is a Policy Adviser for the NT Leader of the Opposition. He is also admitted as a lawyer. Like Charlie, he is passionate about sport and social justice, amongst other things. He considers it a great privilege to be involved in this project.

Charlie King was born in Alice Springs and has lived in Darwin since 1966. He is passionate about sport and the difference it can and should make in dealing with social issues. He is proud of his Gurindji heritage and is equally proud to be a Territorian.



Matt Heffernan is a mixed Irish and Pintupi-Luritja man originally from Alice Springs, Matt grew up in a few places around the NT including Papunya, Alice Springs and Darwin. Matt is passionate about using technology for promoting Indigenous excellence. Matt loves coffee, good poetry and video games.

Jade Jones-Cubillo is a proud Larrakia and Jawoyn woman currently living in Darwin. Jade is deeply passionate about being a strong role model for her community and in particular for Indigenous young people.



Tania Lieman is an actor / director / writer and works in community cultural development. She is the Creative Producer of CemeNTworx Performing Arts Program at Darwin Community Arts.

Rebecca Hell is a vocal advocate for the rights of young women with disability. She works at Cash for Containers in Darwin supporting recycling in the NT and is a member of the CemeNTstars Drama Group for people with a disability. Rebecca loves Manga anime, being part of the Sing Song Signing Choir and spending time with friends.



Varunika Ruwanpura grew up in Singapore, Sri Lanka and Iraq, and is passionate about book writing and journalism. She loves travelling, music and visual arts, chocolate and exploring the Northern Territory, and always wanted to write a speech for Parliament.

Rosa Muller Norman grew up in Kiribati and was educated in NZ. She is passionate about travel, volunteering, dance and the arts, and for a girl who comes from one of the remotest places on the planet is very well travelled. Her greatest loves are her grandson Ripley Kiakia and swimming in the ocean.

