



CONGRESS

A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY



**A CURATORIAL MATCH MAKING PROJECT ACROSS
WORDS, INTENTION AND REPRESENTATION.**

A SERIES OF FIRST SPEECHES FROM VOICES OFTEN UNHEARD.

PERSONAL VISIONS FOR OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE.



SUMMARY

Congress presents a democratic counterpoint; a creative action that encourages citizens to participate, to agitate and inspire change.

Collaborating with a cross-section of diverse, local communities, **Congress** is a citizens' assembly providing a platform for people to have their say and be heard.

Congress connects the personal with the political by matchmaking citizens with professional wordsmiths. Eight professional wordsmiths and eight local community speakers are invited to work together to create the citizen's very own first speech (akin to 'maiden speeches').

The Wordsmith and Citizen Speaker collaborate to create first speeches for voices often unheard; public declarations that address personal visions for our collective future.

These Wordsmiths and Citizen Speakers are curated and supported through the process by **All The Queens Men**, guided by values of gender diversity, culturally diversity, geographic diversity and inclusive of all abilities and demographics. The live show is presented as a performance event with movement moments from local participants.

Originally commissioned as the closing ceremony of the 2017 Melbourne Fringe Festival, **Congress** is presented as a ritualised performance experience; providing opportunity and audience to those that may not be represented by the contemporary political systems. It's a celebration of equity and inclusivity.





THE SEASON

Congress is a one night only event as the premise is the Citizen Speakers are giving their 'first speech' which in true form, only happens once.

A longer season can be curated and presented across a stable of Wordsmiths and Citizen Speakers (see below).

THE ARTISTS AND CREATIVES

Congress involves and requires:

From **All The Queens Men**:

- 2 x Artistic Directors
- 1 x Sound Designer and Operator
- 1 x Production Manager and LX Operator
- 1 x Stage Manager

From your community:

- 8 x Professional Wordsmiths
- 8 x Citizen Speakers
- A selection of up to 20 local movers; individuals, small groups etc.

**NB – The work can expand to involve more Wordsmiths and community members relative to the Presenters' capacity and artistic programming requirements. For example; a season is able to involve eight different Citizen Speakers and Wordsmiths each night or, if a larger stable of Citizen Speakers are programmed, the Wordsmiths may each collaborate with several Citizen Speakers.*

Presenter to provide all appropriate production, technical and Front of House staff (see below for more detail).

THE SHOW

Approximately 60 minutes

Each speech is strictly four – six minutes in duration (8 x 6mins = 48mins).

Each movement performance interspersed between each speech is strictly one minute only in duration (7 x 1.5mins = 10.5mins)

THE VENUE

The work is best suited to an indoor civic space;

- A Town Hall
- A Civic Centre Theatre
- A School Gymnasium

The presentation location ideally has;

- A flat performance floor space of approximately 20 metres squared
- Raised seating capacity for approximately 250 people
- Accessible entry/exit, seating areas, performance areas, restrooms, furniture and facilities
- 2 x medium sized green rooms with accessible restrooms
- Good acoustics for amplified voice and music
- Lighting bars for full lighting and sound rig capable of meeting technical requirements
- Capacity for digital lights and sound including DMX connections

In person community engagement can be done in venues similar to above. Online development can be done providing all Wordsmiths, Citizen Speakers and Movers have capacity for online collaboration.

THE PROCESS

At least 4 months before the project begins, **All The Queens Men** collaborate with the Presenter to locate Wordsmiths, Citizen Speakers, and consider possible venues and Movers. The Presenter must contract/ formalise participation with all of the local Wordsmiths, Citizen Speakers and Movers. Over the course of three months before presentation, **All The Queens Men** lead and facilitate all consultation amongst Wordsmiths, Citizen Speakers, Dancers and the Presenter. This can be done online or in person depending on location and availability.

Once Wordsmiths and Citizen Speakers are engaged, **All The Queens Men** host one introductory meeting with each pairing. The Wordsmith and Speaker must meet, a minimum of three months prior to the presentation date. The Movers must be engaged a minimum of two months prior to the presentation date.

All The Queens Men remain in consultation with all Wordsmiths and Citizen Speakers throughout the entire process.

If possible and appropriate, the Wordsmiths and Citizen Speakers may meet additionally to keep refining the collaboration and content, but it is encouraged that the time commitment for all is light touch.

Once the Wordsmith has enough material, they must deliver the final speech to **All The Queens Men** one month prior to the presentation date.

During this period, **All The Queens Men**, the Wordsmith and the Citizen Speaker all consult to confirm final speech.

In the two weeks prior to the presentation date, **All The Queens Men**, meet with each Citizen Speaker and all Movers in person to talk through their individual speeches and confirm movement performances. Note this must be done in person and cannot happen online.

The approximate total time commitment for project participants is:

- Wordsmiths: 12 hours
- Citizen Speakers: 15 hours
- Movers: 8 hours



REHEARSAL AND PRESENTATION

Rehearsals:

- Two x 3 hr Tech rehearsals required the day before the presentation date
- One x 2hr Dress Rehearsal the day of the Presentation

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

This project has specific technical requirements that are integral to the live event. For full details please see separate tech specs.

For reference, the brief lighting equipment list is:

- 22 LED moving head wash
- 4 x moving head profile
- 3 x LED fixed profile
- Grand MA2 or ETC digital desk (showfile provided)
- OSC or midi trigger from set mounted button (Company provides)

The brief sound equipment list is:

- 1 x Wireless handheld Sennheiser Microphone on a tall boomstand
- 2 x Myer UPJ Centre Speaker Cluster
- 2 x Meyer or NEXO speaker stereo pair
- Subwoofer under seating area
- Inputs to the system – Stereo pair from laptop and the wireless mics

**NB – Lighting fixture and speaker types and amounts will vary to match venue features and dimensions.*

Set:

- Custom built podium
- Custom built staging (can be made from standard decking)
- White stools for all participants

**NB – Set can be built and provided locally or shipped from Australia at Presenters expense.*

Local Crew required:

- 2x Bump-In Crew
- 1x experienced Lighting Operator for bump-in days, rehearsals and performances – Must be able to program the in-house digital desk.

LICENCING

All relevant public music licensing to be covered by Presenter / venue as appropriate.



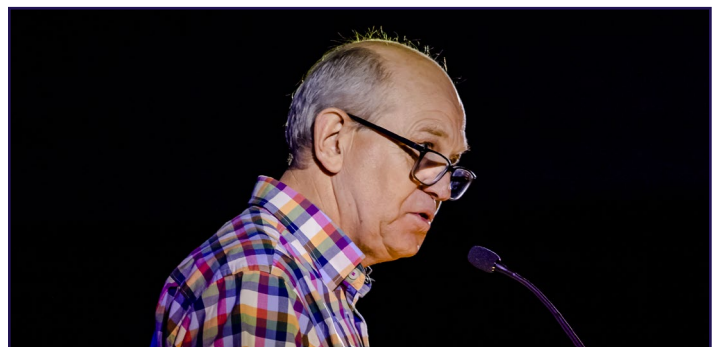
MARKETING MATERIAL

All The Queens Men will provide the Presenter with a marketing pack including:

- branding guidelines
- project logo and fonts
- credits, by-lines and acknowledgements
- a selection of hero images
- testimonials from previous participants / Presenters
- short promotional video

These materials are to be used when promoting **Congress** across marketing and promotional collateral. Other collateral may be made available on request. The Presenter is responsible for all design, marketing and publicity with appropriate approvals from **All The Queens Men**.

All The Queens Men independently professionally documents each presentation of **Congress** across photography and film.





PRESENTATION AND TOURING

Congress is available to tour Australia and internationally. Our touring party includes:

- 2 x Artistic Directors
- 1 x Sound Designer/Operator
- 1 x Production Manager / LX Operator
- 1 x Stage Manager

All The Queens Men asks you to cover:

- **All The Queens Men** Company fee (this includes touring party wages)
- Per diems (if outside of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)
- Travel, Accommodation and Freight (if outside of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)
- All Technical and Production costs incl. technical personnel, catering etc.
- All Venue and Front of House costs
- Honorariums for Wordsmiths and Citizen Speakers
- Performances Fees for all Movers
- All publicity and marketing costs
- Local sign language interpreters for Dress Run and live event

ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS

Congress is able to include an additional photographic component which can result in a photographic exhibition and/or contribute to a compendium publication which **All The Queens Men** is producing in order to journal the speeches, Wordsmiths and Citizen Speakers across the **Congress** history. **All The Queens Men** can consult with the Presenter about this additional element.

The work can be presented in languages other than English, with appropriate support from the Presenter and Venue.

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

The Presenter is encouraged to include services to ensure the event is fully accessible to all. This may include Auslan (or international equivalent) and Audio Description and tactile tours.





A SHORT FILM ABOUT THE MAKING OF CONGRESS IN WYNDHAM CAN BE VIEWED BY CLICKING THE IMAGE

PREVIOUS PRESENTATIONS

- Melbourne Fringe Festival (AUS 2017)
- Darwin Festival (AUS 2018)
- Wyndham City Council (AUS 2019)
- Wiltshire Creative at Salisbury Cathedral (UK 2022)

“ They just don’t let you pretend to be anyone else. Just be yourself, be proud of yourself - it’s something of big value. Your voice now. People are going to hear it.”

NADEEM, CONGRESS - CITIZEN SPEAKER

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Images by Gregory Lorenzutti, Bryony Jackson for All The Queens Men ©



Love

+

Art

+

Community