

Bouddi Foundation Grantees Achieve Success in the Arts

Under the leadership of its founder, actor and director John Bell OA, OBE, FRSN, the [Bouddi Foundation for the Arts](#), now in its twelfth year, supports, mentors, and encourages young Central Coast artistic talent across a wide range of genres with grants for tuition, equipment, and relevant travel. In its first 11 years, the Foundation awarded over \$317,000 to 165 artists. BFA Chair John Bell describes the Foundation's work in a [March 2022 interview](#)

Awardees include actors, singers, songwriters, opera singers, musical theatre performers, painters, sculptors, ceramicists, writers, screenwriters, playwrights, classical, popular, and jazz instrumentalists, art curators, photographers, cinematographers, theatre producers and directors, puppet makers, indigenous, classical, and contemporary dancers.

The outstanding eight grant winners below are emblematic of the Bouddi Foundation making a difference in the lives of young artists – never more important than in the current environment

[Actor Imogen Sage](#) – Imogen, the first Bouddi Foundation for the Arts major grant recipient, was sponsored by the Foundation to London's prestigious Royal Central School of Speech and Drama. After roles in West End productions, Imogen returned to Australia and, in 2019, co-wrote and performed her debut play 'Woyzeck + Marie' for a short sold-out season in Melbourne. In April 2021, Imogen was [acclaimed](#) for her starring role at the Sydney Opera House in 'Claudel', the story of sculptor Camille Claudel Rodin's love, muse and most gifted pupil.



[Painter, Jordan Richardson](#) – Jordan was raised on the Bouddi Peninsula. He gained his passion for painting with oils at 15. Jordan is well known for his portraits of noted Australians, for which he was named a finalist in the [Archibalds](#) in 2017, 2018, and 2019. In these and other works, Jordan is influenced by the Baroque period of the seventeenth century. He has also been a two-time finalist in the Brett Whiteley Travelling Art Scholarship. He has been featured in exhibitions, including the Gosford Art Prize. His work is exhibited at the Michael Reid Gallery, Chippendale, Sydney. Jordan serves as an adjudicator and mentor for visual arts for the Bouddi Foundation for the Arts annual grant competition.



[Flautist, Alyse Faith](#) – Alyse is an exciting and versatile performer. She is a winner of competitions in Australia and abroad. Alyse has a Master of Arts in Performance from the Royal Academy of Music in London. Supported by grants from the Bouddi Foundation, Alyse has performed with the Royal Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra, Academy Opera Orchestra, the University of London Symphony Orchestra, and the Academy Manson Ensemble. She performed as principal flute on tour in China with the orchestra of the Australian International Opera Company.



[Puppet Designer and Illustrator, Gabrielle Paananen](#) - Gab is a puppet maker/designer, artist, and sculptor passionate about breathing life into inanimate materials using the language of movement to engage people and tell a story. Fascinated by connections and patterns in nature, Gab studied natural history illustration, animal behaviour, taxidermy, mycology, and skeleton articulation. She was awarded several Bouddi Foundation for the Arts grants; completed a Diploma of Production Art; illustrated scientific papers and a book on Permaculture. Under the mentorship of artist and BFA adjudicator Peter Godwin, Gab released [a print series illustrating Australian wildlife](#). In 2022 Gab built a giant glowing butterfly puppet for theatre company "Born in a Taxi;" is the lead artist for [Erth Visual and Physical](#) puppetry-based theatrical productions; and commences a project in Oregon, USA building animatronic puppets with realistic creature skins for an upcoming film.



[Indigenous Director of Photography and Video Artist, Ryan Andrew Lee](#)

– Winner of the Bouddi Foundation of the Arts John and Merran Adams Award grant, Ryan purchased a unique vintage lens to produce his artistic signature. Ryan is a conceptual new media artist whose experimental cinematography, including cinema vérité and slow cinema, highlights social, cultural, and environmental issues and is strongly informed by First Nations people and community. His work is a deeply contemplative exploration of humankind's place and condition. Ryan holds a BMA (Digital Media) from the University of New South Wales College of Fine Arts and has exhibited at numerous galleries and festivals across Australia and the world.



[Singer-Songwriter, Lucy Parle](#) – At just 18 years of age, Lucy is a gifted storyteller and rising star. Her distinctive sound sits at the intersection of folk, pop, indie, and alt-country. Lucy's [ORiGiN Music](#) award from BFA included mentoring and studio time from ORiGiN's professional team to nurture and encourage her emerging talent in writing songs and delivering them remarkably polished for a young artist. Lucy is a self-described lover of honest and confessional lyrics. Lucy took first place in the International Songwriters Competition (ISC), winning the Teen Category with her song 'Back Up'. Lucy inked a record deal with boutique Australian indie label Double Drummer in early 2021. [Lucy's latest single, 'Hey Mum', is out now.](#)

[Dancer Eliza Williams](#)

- Eliza from Narara graduated from Conlon College ballet school in Pymble. In 2020 she was selected to attend the Berlin Dance Institute - an international institute of excellence in contemporary dance education. In September 2020, she began her studies there with grant support from the Bouddi Foundation. COVID-19 shuttered The Berlin Institute in May 2021, returning Eliza to Australia. Undaunted, Eliza commenced a Bachelor of Health Science (Nutrition and Exercise) with the University of South Australia whilst continuing classes via Zoom with the Berlin Institute. Coming out of lockdown in September 2021, the Institute in Germany invited Eliza to return. With a rare Australian Government exemption to travel abroad, and again with Bouddi Foundation support for travel and tuition, Eliza has returned to complete her studies.



[Curator and Museums Studies researcher Lilia Jackson](#) is an emerging curator and Museums Studies researcher. Her Bouddi Foundation for the Arts grant enables her current study for a Master of Research in Exhibition Studies at the prestigious Central Saint Martins - University of London. Lilia is devoted to exploring inclusion and transparency through engagement within Museums. Lilia has worked for both nationally and internationally recognised arts organisations. Most recently, Lilia interned at Leonard Joel Auction House. Working with the Sydney Fine Arts Department, Lilia gained skills in artwork valuations, authentications, and provenance research. With an insight into the art market, Lilia also assists with artwork cataloguing, phone bidding and curating auction collections. Since this intern experience, Lilia has worked for Leonard Joel on a variety of auctions, including Fine Art, The Collectors Auctions, and Important Jewels.