



## ASSESSMENT PANEL MEMBERS 2009

**Vanessa Peters**  
*Principal Consultant*  
*Regional and Remote Schools*  
*Department of Education and Training*

Vanessa Peters has taught Media Studies and Photography at various metropolitan high schools in Perth, Western Australia. She has been an administrator and curriculum leader. Currently based in Central Office of the Department of Education and Training, Vanessa has worked in various roles including Principal Consultant The Arts K-12 and Principal Consultant The Arts-Senior Schooling Academic Standards and Support. She is currently Principal Consultant for Regional and Remote Schools. In her role as Principal Consultant The Arts K-12, she was responsible for curriculum and policy for arts education. Vanessa continues her work in arts education through her involvement with ArtsEdge, the Department of Education and Training's strategic partnership with the Department of Culture and the Arts, providing high quality arts and cultural experiences in education and the AIR Grants Program. Vanessa has also worked in various roles in the media industry including advertising, film, television and video game design and co-authored the text book *Media: Key Terms and Concepts* (2007).

**Di Shaw**  
*Manager Programs*  
*Development and Strategy Directorate*  
*Department of Culture and the Arts*

Di has more than 25 year's professional experience in arts and culture, with an enduring commitment to arts and education, including artists in residence programs.

Her professional career began in theatre as a performer, writer and director. As a member of the Playhouse Theatre In Education Team, she toured across

the State and was a member of a three month creative company in residency project in the South West.

Di co-founded Deckchair Theatre in 1983 and was the Company's Artistic Director for its first five years. She was awarded a Creative Development Fellowship in 1989. She participated in the Nanjing Acrobats Training Program, Australia's first cultural exchange project with China.

Di is an experienced grants panel member for local, state and federal government, including Australia Council, WA Arts Council and the Cities of Geelong (VIC), Glen Eira (VIC) and Joondalup (WA).

Di's career covers performing arts, festivals, visual arts, cultural planning and policy and managing multi-disciplinary arts and cultural teams for federal, state and local government.

**Dr David Sudmalis**  
***Manager Strategic Development and Evaluation***  
***Community Partnerships***  
***Australia Council for the Arts***

Dr David Sudmalis is Manager of Strategic Development and Evaluation (Community Partnerships) for the Australia Council for the Arts, and was formerly Manager of Youth Arts, Education and Policy. As an academic, he has held posts at the University of Tasmania (including stints as Head of Music and Research [Visual and Performing Arts]), James Cook University and the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. He has been visiting lecturer in new media arts and music at the Beijing Film Academy (Beijing, China), Queensland University of Technology, International Music House (Kuching, Malaysia) and the University of Ulster (Northern Ireland). He is an internationally renowned and acclaimed academic, researcher, new media artist and musician and is one half of the creative consultancy team MISSINGHAM|SUDMALIS.

Dr Sudmalis has undertaken several important arts, education and cultural policy consultancies, and is highly regarded as project manager of large scale arts projects and research. He is currently a Partner Investigator (PI) on an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Research Project examining the impact of arts education on students' motivation and engagement. This project is led by researchers at the University of Sydney.

Dr Sudmalis enjoys an international profile as a new media artist, composer and performer. He has had several works commissioned by Symphony Australia (*Cicada Dusk*, *Zillmanton Clarities*) and (with Daynor Missingham) has had several works tour with International Digital Art Association including *Die Eigenheit* for single channel audio-visual projection, *ENKI* for flute, live electronics and digital fixed audio, *Connections* for single channel audio-visual projection, *0011+* for flute, percussion, live electronics, digital fixed audio and interactive digital system, and *PHI* for flute, piano, guqin, live electronics,

digital fixed audio and single channel projection. His collaboration with David Xu was featured at the Yokohama Central Gallery as part of the Yokohama Triennial in 2006 and recent collaborations with Stephen Danzig have resulted in *Un\_Place* being featured at the London Frieze Art Fair, as well as at exhibitions in Milan, Tokyo and Melbourne. Recent work investigates the sonic possibilities within digital and interactive frameworks of 'found' instruments including glass, buildings, plants and the circulatory system of the human body.

Dr Sudmalis was founding editor of *ESK* (an e-journal specialising in cross-disciplinary research and practice) and founding executive officer of *ESVEPIA MEDIA* (a CD/DVD publishing body disseminating new practice based research in sound and new media). He is a published academic with papers delivered at international conferences including the Leeds International Music Technology in Education Conference, Rhapsody 21C (The future of university museums and art galleries) and numerous other cross-disciplinary, education and arts conferences.

Dr Sudmalis is also a leading Australian composer and performer of modern jazz with performance credits including *Tirami Su*, *Ulysses Blue*, and many solo and guest appearances in the Australian media. He has performed in the UK, Malaysia, China and throughout Australia to critical acclaim.

<http://www.missinghamsudmalis.com>

**Alison Woodman**  
***Education Sector Representative***

Alison Woodman was a teacher and administrator in Western Australian metropolitan and regional public schools for more than 40 years. She retired in 2008 and continues to work as a consultant on a variety of projects for the Department of Education and Training.

Alison has maintained an intense life-long interest in music, drama and the visual arts. She has travelled extensively and used the opportunity to extend her experience of these Arts contexts in many cultures. She has also championed and promoted Arts education in the schools in which she has worked.

**Ross Sweeney**  
***Education Sector Representative***

Recently retired Principal of Como Secondary College, Ross Sweeney has a proven record in programming artist-in-residence projects in schools.

Ross has a Bachelor of Applied Science (Maths) and Diploma of Education, M Ed Management and has more than 38 years experience in the education

sector as Secondary teacher, Deputy Principal and Principal. He has also been involved in the curriculum implementation of Senior Mathematics for the Department of Education and Training (DET).

Since retiring as a Principal in 2008, Ross has worked as a consultant to DET on the formation of the new K-12 Maths and Science School based in South Perth and as a consultant to Kent Street Senior High School. He is Director WA of RADII.ORG, a school research web-based facility based in Melbourne and most recently was appointed Academic Director of the National Institute of Technology in Beijing, China.

**Jane Murray**  
***Arts Sector Representative***

Graduating from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in 1996 with a Bachelor of Dance, Jane then completed her Diploma of Education in Further Education and Training in 2000. Jane has worked as a professional performer, choreographer and teacher in regional Western Australia, interstate and abroad. She worked as a dancer/teacher for Buzz Dance Theatre (1998-2001), was a State representative for Youth Performing Arts Australia (2000-2005) and is currently a member of the board of management for STEPS Youth Dance Company. In her capacity as educator in Dance/Drama for students in a K-12 school, Jane recently collaborated with Michael Barlow (Spare Parts Puppet Theatre) to create and produce a new work for the UNIMA World Puppetry Festival and Congress (2008). The work involved 84 young performers aged 12-16 and took six months to develop.

Jane is actively involved with the Curriculum Council, in the development of the new Dance Course for Years 11 and 12 and is currently on maternity leave from Perth College, where she teaches Drama and has coordinated the Dance program since 2002.

**Minaxi May**  
***Arts Sector Representative***

Minaxi May is a visual artist who has exhibited extensively throughout Australia and is featured in many private collections both nationally and abroad.

Minaxi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Visual Arts, a Master of Arts in Art Therapy and qualifications in Multimedia, Graphic Design and teaching as well as skills in animation and fashion. She is currently a PhD candidate at Murdoch University.

Minaxi spent her childhood drawing absolutely everything. Art allowed her the freedom to branch out into many art forms whilst contributing to society in creative ways. She is particularly inspired by art methods such as installation and print, using bought, reusable or ephemeral materials including plastics,

stickers, food, fabrics and new/multi-media. Her work investigates themes of popular, urban and media cultures and their impact on the notions of beauty, consumerism, design and the everyday with a focus on colour, pattern, repetition and play.

She has received numerous prizes including the Fremantle Print Award People's Choice Award (2004) and the Artsource Gunnery Residency at Artspace, Sydney, where she presented a studio showing, *Playtime*. In 2009 she will present two solo shows, *Kaleidoscope* and *That Red Dot* and an installation in Fremantle's Lick Clothing's new art space. She has also been commissioned to create a new work for *Illume* as part of Campbelltown Art Centre's (NSW) large outdoor video projection program. From October 2009 until January 2010 Minaxi will have a collaborative studio residency at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts (PICA) with artist Olga Cironis.