



DANZ – DANCE AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL REPORT 2009

He tautoko i te ao kanikani i Aotearoa
Supporting the world of dance in New Zealand



Justin Haiu's crew at Pacific Dance New Zealand, Choreolab 2009

Chairman's Report 2009

As we look back on another year of challenges DANZ can be particularly proud not only of its achievements but also that Dance is no longer looked upon as a lesser art form. There have been many successes during the past year and everyone involved can be satisfied that their efforts have been justly rewarded.

For me two exciting milestones were the placing by the Auckland Festival of several contemporary New Zealand productions in mainstream venues, recognition surely of the standing of the artists involved but a brave decision nevertheless, and Auckland University's acknowledgement of Michael Parmenter as a Distinguished Alumni; both outstanding achievements. While Michael is not the first to be honoured by a University I believe he would be the first distinguished alumni with dance as the major subject and the new works premiered and presented by some of our most experienced choreographers and performers ensured the Auckland Festival AK09 will be long remembered.

Equally exciting have been the developments in association with Creative New Zealand and, in particular, Manukau City Council in recognising and supporting new initiatives in the Pacific Island dance community. I am confident that we are entering a new era of professional development in Pacific Island dance which will eventually bring new audiences and a greater appreciation of the potential and history.

The relationships at many levels with Creative New Zealand, the Ministries of Education and Culture and Heritage and with SPARC have been cordial and productive. We have also enjoyed a good rapport with the Hon Chris Finlayson, Minister for the Arts, and his ongoing support and encouragement is appreciated.

DANZ could not achieve anything without the ongoing support of our financial partners particularly Creative New Zealand, the Ministry of Education, and the ASB Charitable Trust. I need to acknowledge the support of arts advisers from many City and District Councils – Auckland, North Shore, Manukau, Rodney, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin amongst others. Thanks also to both the Caversham Foundation and the various community trusts for your confidence in us and your support of our efforts to enhance the service to the Dance Community.

The decision of the ASB Community Trust to commit to continued support for a DANZ presence in Auckland has enabled us to establish a new and very professional Centre in Great North Road in conjunction with several partners. I want to acknowledge and thank everyone who worked so hard to develop the original DANZ

centre in Sandringham Road – without your dedication, commitment and support it is unlikely the new centre would have become a reality.

On a staff level DANZ is amazingly well served by our very small team of professionals. Thank you Tania, Susan, Celia, Tatiana, Faye, Zoe and those other individuals (David, Salena and Elizabeth in particular) who come in at a moment's notice to get the work completed – without your constant overachievement DANZ and Dance in New Zealand would be the poorer.

Unlike the previous year there has been little change to the membership of the Board. At the AGM we farewelled Lyndsey O'Reilly, who had served seven years as a Business Director and Treasurer, and welcomed Liz Davey while in August Shona McCullagh stepped down from the Executive, although remaining as Deputy Chairman, with Helen Langford replacing her on the Executive Committee. In my opinion the Board has worked extremely well as a team and provides DANZ with a high level of governance and leadership.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve DANZ as your Chairman through the past year and to work for and with such talented individuals.

Graham C Atkinson

Chairman

Dance Aotearoa New Zealand Limited

March 2010

Executive Director's Annual Report 2009

2009 was another very active and successful year for DANZ. We saw year two of the national workshop programme *Keeping Dance Moving* with workshops and forums programmes developed out of feedback from the 2008 programme. There was increased and positive feedback, increases in revenue and DANZ membership. There was necessity for some subsidy for the freelance sector, enabled through Creative New Zealand support targeted at this sector.

The workshops attracted people from all sectors of the industry, from freelancers and studios through to those interested or engaged in dance education and recreational dance. In total DANZ ran nine major training workshops across the country focusing on best practice issues and skill development.

In addition, through partnership opportunities, additional projects were run such as the DANZ/Playmarket/PANNZ Producing Conference (March), the choreographic focus *Dance Dialogues* (June) with the NZ School of Dance, the *Expressions of Culture* dance in education training conference (October) with TRCC (Ministry of Education's Teacher Refresher Course) and Wellington We'lldance Dance Educators Network and the joint Goethe Institut master-class and forum.

DANZ regional forum outreach included Hamilton, Nelson, Whangarei and Dunedin, the latter linking with the South Island dance network. Pilot *Dance Work* forums exploring the role of an agent, the union and advisory services, were held in Auckland and Wellington. These linked to DANZ research on Conditions of Work and Rates of Pay.

The Mentoring programme ran solidly. The aim of the programme is to build skill level and capacity in the sector. In total DANZ undertook twenty longer term mentoring projects in 2009 and ten mentoring clinics (one or two meetings). This is the fourth year of the programmes development and it will be evaluated in 2010. A sample of the mentoring feedback shows how it is valued by practitioners

"I gained a new appreciation for a mentoring scheme within a Polynesian context"

"I gained confidence working with a mature artist"

"Great programme and totally support its place in assisting and developing growing minds"

"Having a mentor gave me an outside eye for this solo. It helped me find an order to the work which better communicated the concept and feeling"

"I think the three way mentoring has been great (a dance group, intern publicist and producer/mentor) xx has been fantastic, attending all the sessions, listening to our mentor and taking a more active role when we

required. She has shown a strong instinct for marketing and publicity. We will maintain these relationships by having check-in sessions next year”

Pilot mentoring training for arts mentors was offered in a partnership with a Wellington City Council project.

The Intern and Senior Arts Cluster projects in Auckland provided specific skills support and training for emerging and senior dance people, with a range of training from producing, arts management, goal setting and branding to viewing and critiquing dance. DANZ presented at the Māori Contemporary Dance Conference in October and the World Dance Alliance Asia Pacific Conference in New Delhi India, in November. Through Goethe Institut support DANZ was able to attend the first meeting of international dance plans.

The work on the *Conditions of Work and Rates of Pay* project was the central 2009 DANZ research project. The research process was slower than anticipated and has highlighted the complicated issues surrounding this subject. Work to produce a report and recommendations will continue in 2010. While the industry might hope for some quick fixes, the early research results show that there is need for education and consciousness raising through forums and specific resource development.

A range of resources were published on the website on such diverse subjects as *Marketing Dance* and *Lower Leg Health*. An updated *Dance Facts* was placed on the web site to enable dance people to use to support their advocacy and applications. The DANZ Quarterly publication promoted DANZ resources and ran a two part article on the *Role of a Producer*, an issue that was raised by the Industry Strategy. In this way DANZ tried hard to make the most of opportunities to bring industry issues into the public domain through available and cost effective mediums.

Actions identified in the Dance Industry Strategy were engaged with, including the major CART (Carting the Arts 'Round Town) producing/touring project in Auckland region. This attracted a very effective range of Auckland regional authority funding and enabled the touring of dance to audiences who had not had the opportunity to see New Zealand contemporary dance. As well it offered the dance productions the ability to refine their programme through repeated performance. The project has now become independent and stands as an excellent example of a touring and dance development strategy.

A significant partnership in sector development was with the Pacific Island dance development projects, initially in one-off funding which allowed the set up of an independent but DANZ supported Fono/Choreolab project and then Pacific Dance development project lead by Sefa Enari. The Pacific Islands Dance Forum was also set up as a diverse representative advisory group. DANZ provided forum support for the Manukau based Pacific Island Fono and a partnership in the first Pacific Dance focused Choreolab project as part of the Manukau Arts Festival in November.

In the Education sector the new LEOTC contract work gradually built in strength nationally and within the Northland focus. Terry O'Grady developed new contacts and networks in Northland through an intensive round of school meetings from Whangarei to Kaitia. Piripi Christie provided quality contemporary Māori dance experiences, including as guest artist at the Whakatane based schools dance festival which DANZ partnered with East Coast Bay REAP. Java Dance toured to over thirty schools from Coromandel to Wellington. This resulted in a very positive end of year report to the Ministry of Education, which was well received. As support for dance and arts in schools constricts through Government focus changes, the importance of this contract grows as it not only provides student dance opportunities but LEOTC is now acknowledged by the Ministry as a way of providing simultaneous professional development for school staff.

DANZ also supported the Dance Subject Association as it developed an executive committee for dance educators in order to play an advocacy role. The DANZ hosted forum "Where to Next" within *Expressions of Culture*, confirmed that in the current economic climate it is essential that we make most use of the currently existing resources and services for dance in education.

The SPARC funded New Zealand Disability and dance strategy project slowly progressed, with thorough consultation through two surveys, resulting in exciting material for the strategy. This work will be finished in early 2010. The work then begins to act on this strategy.

The budget deficit identified at the beginning of the year was minimized through prudence and increased income from some areas such as advertising in the magazine and on the website. DANZ moved to on line banking which has greatly improved efficiency.

We continued to see how vital a role dance plays in New Zealand culture, and DANZ Quarterly and the DANZ E newsletter ably demonstrated this through diverse content. It was good to see DANZ recreation focused articles picked up by the Australasian recreation magazine and reaching a wider audience, including Local Authorities.

It is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated DANZ team who achieve well beyond their team size. Thank you to all staff and contract workers for your extraordinary dedication and desire to see DANZ and dance develop in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you to the 2009 Executive for your dedicated and informed voluntary work and to Graham for your consistent support as the Chairman. Thank you to the Board for your enthusiasm and wisdom.

Once again we all look forward to another year of DANZ, dance and development.

Dr. Tania Kopytko

DANZ Executive Director

DANZ acknowledges the following organisations who provided funding support through grants to DANZ, or projects auspiced by DANZ in 2009.

Auckland City Council
ASB Community Trust
Caversham Foundation
Creative New Zealand
Dunedin City Council
Manukau City
Ministry of Education
North Shore District Council
NZ Post, Contract programme delivery
Rodney District Council
SPARC
Waitakere City