

ALEX THEATRE, ST KILDA AND THE AUSTRALIAN CARTOON MUSEUM

Vass Theatre Group is pleased to announce a new strategic alliance with The Australian Cartoon Museum.

The presence and participation of the Australian Cartoon Museum (“ACM”) is an exciting addition to the new Arts Innovation & Technology Hub within the Alex Theatre in St Kilda that was founded by Aleksandar Vass OAM to explore the creative state.

The ACM will be working in alliance with the Alex Theatre to offer a suite of cartoon and animation education programs, as well as its museum and historical archives preservation.

ACM fits in well with the Vision for the Alex Theatre’s new Hub:

- A destination to experience all aspects of the arts, including cartoons, and cartooning and animation programs
- The development of new artistic talent, particularly cartoonists
- Partnering with production and media companies to develop cartoon-based content
- Strengthening the ability of the arts to resist political correctness that threatens to strangle the creative juices of many, particularly cartoonists, as shown by the treatment in the media by the late, great cartoonist, Bill Leak.

Key members of the Board of the ACM, led by Jim Bridges, Charles Kovess, and Frantz Kantor, will be working with Vass Theatre Group.

“We are excited to be involved in spreading the value of cartoons, comedy and political commentary and developing new creative content in an amazing environment that offers collaboration in an arts innovation hub” says Jim Bridges. “I have saved over 3,000,000 cartoons over the past 30 years, to share with future generations”.

Charles Kovess. Charles is a former lawyer, the founder of Kovess International, the President of the Australia-Hungary Chamber of Commerce & Industry, the Past National President of the National Speakers Association of Australia, and is the author of two books, *Passionate People Produce* and *Passionate Performance*. Amongst a broad range of interests, Charles has promoted sustainability practices and philosophies since 1976, when he invested into an organic farm, and challenges audiences to passionately promote the need for sustainable behaviours, both personally (by being healthy!) and globally (by keeping our planet alive!)

Founder of the ACM, Jim Bridges. For 36 years, Jim Bridges has collected cartoons. He even got a job as a cleaner for Ansett Airlines to get access to free newspapers from airplanes. He has contributed to over a dozen books on cartoons. Jim has curated more than 100 cartoon exhibitions and judged cartoon competitions here and in China. He currently runs a class for the University of the Third Age called, “The History of Everything”, using cartoons to discuss anything from I.V.F. to Yuppies.

Frantz Kantor. What do you get when you cross Bullwinkle J. Moose with Boris Karloff? Answer: I don’t know, but I’m pretty sure it would look a lot like Aussie Illustrator Frantz Kantor. Frantz is an Illustrator, Cartoonist, comic artist, fine art painter, animation director, art director, concept designer, production designer, lecturer and trainer in the industry of visual communication. He’s been illustrating for brands, companies and businesses for over 25years. Recent credits include Hairspray the Musical and the reboot of Young Talent time for Channel 10 Australia.

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