

big words

FORMAT COLLECTIVE

Big!

Queen's Theatre
Play House Lane
(Just off Currie
Street)
Wednesday,
June 3rd
6 PM till Late

Big Words Sessions

**Queen's Theatre
& Merge Towers**
Wednesday -
Friday, starting
June 3rd
6 PM - 7 PM

Penguin Poetry

by **Amelia Walker**
Merge Towers
23 Peel Street
Thursday,
June 11th
6:30 PM

Format Zine Shop

Official Opening
Merge Towers
23 Peel Street
Sunday,
June 7th
3 PM

What is big words?

The Big Words Program is a showcase and networking event for people interested in DIY, non-professional and artist-run approaches to publishing, text and multi-disciplinary art platforms. It's being run by the Format Collective, which ran the Format DIY Festival in March this year.

After we ran the festival, a lot of people told us that Adelaide needed more events and spaces that drew together those with an interest in DIY, participatory culture, activism and the arts. We agreed and decided we should start organising things.

We also thought it might be nice if the youth arts dollar actually went into something useful, so we talked to the 2% arts collective, our pals at Merge Magazine, Georgie Davill from Carclew, and a bunch of indie publishers and writers, and Big Words is the outcome.

Big Words features a one night show called Big!, curated by Chloe from 2%, four workshops with indie publishers, writers and artists, an evening of angry poets organised by Amelia Walker and the exciting opening of the Format Zine Shop.

yours,

Ianto Ware

On Behalf of the Format Collective

big words

Program

FORMAT COLLECTIVE

Big!

Queen's Theatre

Play House Lane
(Just off Currie Street)
Wednesday, June 3rd
6 PM till Late

Typical of any arts related event, *Big!* came into the world kicking and screaming, demanding to be its own entity.

Big! said "Art should be fun, brash and involve a paddling pool filled with jelly." Reluctantly we agreed with our petulant art foetus. There is a place for art that asks us to quietly extricate ourselves from our busy lives and reflect. There is also a place for art that comes with two PAs, seven projector screens, forty-odd artists and their egos, plus just the right amount of pandemonium.

Big! might not be the most well behaved child/exhibition. It certainly isn't curated to a traditional 'theme'. However, the artists are actively responding to the spirit of the event by thinking about their practice in terms of defining our own 'art scene'.

The collectives Format and Two Percent give you *Big!*

The Big Words Workshops

Big Words features four workshops by independent publishers, artists and writers from across Australia. Participation in the workshops is free. Most of them will probably feature about a half hour talk, followed by time for questions and complaints.

Session One:

The Rizzeria

Cooperative stencil printing in the new cultural renaissance.

Queen's Theatre

Play House Lane (Just off Currie Street)
Wednesday, June 3rd
6 PM - 7 PM

Kernow Craig

The Rizzeria is a stencil printing cooperative based in Sydney that creates beautiful and unique printed matter. Over the last year more than 50 members of the Rizzeria cooperative have honed their stencil printing skills taking Sydney's small-scale amateur production to the next level. Kernow Craig (co-founder of the Rizzeria) will be looking at the culmination of the last year of work by the cooperative and announcing a new and exciting initiative in Australian independent publishing over 2009/2010.

Session Two:

Activism, Publishing and Abusive Poetry.

Merge Towers

23 Peel Street
Thursday June 4th
6.30 PM

Lou Smith (Breakdown Press) and Arlene Texta Queen

Lou Smith co-runs the much beloved Melbourne based Breakdown Press with designer Tom Civil. Together they've published books like Scrapbook to Somewhere and You - the official anthology of the long running anonymous zine of the same name, as well as The Nuclear Posters series, which combined writing, art and design on contemporary Australian political activism.

Arlene Texta Queen is mostly renowned for her Texta Nudes series, which has seen her travel the world like some kind of rock star. Whilst in Adelaide, she'll be joining Lou to perform the third instalment of their Hoon Haiku series, which is partly a zine, partly a bunch of haikus, and partly an opportunity to cruise the neighbourhood in a cardboard cut out car hurling abuse at people within strict syllabic parameters.

Session Three:

Text, Art and the Very Small Press.

Merge Towers

23 Peel Street
Friday June 5th
6.30 PM

Marlaina Read and Alanna Lorenzon

Marlaina Read and Alanna Lorenzon represent the new wave of 'small scale' publishing, using online mediums and blogs about doing theses in the fine arts

(Marlaina) or limited edition, handmade textual work (Alanna). They'll be reflecting, more or less, on working in ways that blur the line between 'publishing' as a mass medium and art as reflective of a more ephemeral and unique approach.

Session Four:

Independent Publishing with Lisa Dempster.

Merge Towers

23 Peel Street
Friday June 12th
6.30 PM

Lou Smith (Breakdown Press) and Arlene Texta Queen

Lisa Dempster

This workshop is all about independent publishing. Come along and ask all your burning questions about making books and magazines. How do you find a printer? Who are the indie publishers to watch? What is a sensible print run? And why would anyone be crazy enough to run a small press in the first place? Lisa will talk about her experiences running Vignette Press over the past three years. In particular she will discuss the creation of *The Sex Mook* and *The Death Mook* - a part-magazine, part-book hybrid publication - including how each issue is produced and some of the challenges associated with publishing a small independent title. You will learn how to get involved, what it takes to set up your own press, planning what to publish, how to choose a printer, where to sell your publications and pitfalls to avoid.

Performance Poetry: Penguins in Assertiveness Training

by **Amelia Walker**

Merge Towers

23 Peel Street

Thursday, June 11th

6:30 PM

Back in the day, Adelaide had the Angry Penguins: Max Harris and other experimental poets who flaunted convention, making madness most sublime. Then Ern Malley and came along and spoiled all the fun. Conservatism has haunted Adelaide ever since, but there are still poets who dare to take risks and experiment. Thanks to 80's self-help lingo, the new gen is more than angry - they're getting assertive!

Format Zine Shop

Merge Towers

23 Peel Street

Official Opening

Sunday, June 7th 3 PM

Open in theory

Sunday June 7th - Saturday June 20th
3 PM to 6 PM Daily

Format, with support from Merge magazine, opens the doors on their very own zine retail outlet. With the best of Australian and international zine publishing assembled by Sam Rodgers and Ianto Ware, the store will be open to the general public, with free photocopying available to zine publishers. We'll be collecting new stock to take to Newcastle for the TINA zine fair and hopefully assembling an online distributor, roughly akin to the US based Microcosm Publishing.

The opening hours, and a planned attempt at running the store more permanently, depend on who puts their hands up to volunteer and who provides us with stock.

If you'd like your zines stocked at the retail outlet contact Sam Rodgers at: samwise27@gmail.com or bring them into the shop.

Visiting Artists Biographies

Kernow Craig is a designer, activist and print maker working in advertising by day and the Rizzeria stencil printing cooperative by night.

Lisa Dempster is a writer, editor and publisher based in Melbourne. Her titles include V*gan Shopper and The Melbourne Veg Food Guide.

Alanna Lorenzon is a Melbourne based artist and writer who is currently producing a series of works themed around whales, movement and public space.

Marlaina Read is a Sydney based artist currently completing a Masters in Fine Arts at the University of New South Wales. She is also the editor of the online arts journal Invisible City.

Lou Smith, along with **Tom Civil**, runs the Melbourne based Breakdown Press, one of the nation's best loved independent publishing and design houses.

Arlene Texta Queen emerged from a background in illustration, underwent a degree in fine arts and has gone onto international recognition for her Texta Nudes series of life-sized nudes drawn entirely in felt tip marker.

FORMAT