



## **BRIEF HISTORY of THE INDEPENDENT ARTS FOUNDATION**

The IAF has a proud history and has evolved from the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust (AETT).

The (AETT) commenced in 1954 to commemorate the first visit of Queen Elizabeth to Australia and it became one of Australia's premier national arts organizations.

The Trust had been responsible for creating amongst others, major Arts bodies – Australia Opera, Australia Ballet, Theatre of the Deaf, Bell Shakespeare Company and two of our State Orchestras.

During the 70s and 80s, the South Australian Branch Committee raised money from many varied events for a variety of AETT projects, including Playwright Awards and workshops of new plays. There was lots of fun and lots of garden parties with pink umbrellas and pink balloons, requiring a lot of time and effort for many people to organise.

From about 1989 until 1991, the national body of AETT experienced troubled times and lost its funding, but recovered two years later. After a vote, the South Australian branch members decided to be independent of the national body.

Hence the Independent Arts Foundation (IAF) was formed and launched at Greenaway Gallery in November 1991 with over 400 people attending. It was established as a non-profit organisation supporting the Arts in all its forms.

In general, the IAF encourages young South Australian artists to develop their talent in SA, Australia and overseas. When launched, there were four Committees covering most of the arts including: the IAF Literary Club, the Movie Club, the Performing Arts Committee, and the Special Events Committee. The latest committee to be formed is the IAF Clare Valley Region Movie Club which also launched and organised the SALA (SA Living Artists Festival) in the region. Today, there is just one Board, with one Board member responsible for Clare.