



LEFT: That's it! Working in the industry is a mixture of joy and frustration...at the conference Playback Theatre interprets stories from the audience about life in the industry. PHOTO BY WENDY REW



RIGHT: Time to reflect...Conference participants relax in the spacious courtyard at Melbourne University's Ormond College. PHOTO BY WENDY REW

In Brief

understanding of industrial issues, health and safety, self-management?); what is the quality of teaching? (do teachers have industry experience, do they have ongoing contact with the industry, do they have any teaching qualifications?); does the course provide value for money? (consider the equipment, access to facilities, length of course, content and cost); how up to date is the course? (do the course providers conduct regular critical reviews of their courses, do teachers attend refresher courses, are facilities and equipment up to date?). Ask these questions of course providers, but try also to obtain an independent view from people who have enrolled previously or from a relevant industry association or union.

*To help intending students make an informed choice about a course of study, consider the following points: how much contact do course providers have with the industry? (eg, are industry personnel involved regularly in course maintenance and assessment?); how broadly based is the course? (do they, for example, teach small business skills, do they provide an

* The Australian Network for Art and Technology (ANAT) will hold its second national summer school in computer-aided design and manufacture over three weeks in January at the Advanced Technology Education Centre, Regency College of TAFE in Adelaide. The course will focus on artists' applications of computer-aided technology. A maximum of 16 places will be available, 8 of which will be for individuals with no previous experience, and the remainder for individuals with some previous experience. The cost of the course is \$250 per week per artist. ANAT is endeavouring to assemble a package of funding to assist artists' participation and requests for assistance have been lodged with a range of State cultural, education and employment agencies to offset the travel and tuition costs for artists wishing to participate in the School. Further information can be obtained by contacting Virginia Barratt or Caron Ward from ANAT, PO Box 8029, Hindley Street, SA, 5000 : phone (08)231 9037 fax: (08)211 7323.

* In November VAEITB held a joint seminar with the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) entitled the Business of Arts. The seminar was well patronised with 70 people turning out to the venue in the Arts Centre. Three speakers addressed the basics of financial management and marketing. It was interesting to note that at least half those who attended had enrolled in an Art course at either TAFE or Higher Education and claimed that little or no attention was paid to business skills during their formal training. VAEITB is considering holding further seminars with the SBDC in 1990.

* In September, Wendy Joseph was awarded the first Ewa Czajor Memorial Award. The award has been established under the auspices of the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust and commemorates the life and work of director, performer and teacher, Ewa Czajor. Ewa worked in theatre in Melbourne and Canberra for more than 15 years. In Melbourne she performed with Arena Theatre Company and then worked for 3 years as artistic director of student theatre at Melbourne University. She was murdered in Thailand in January 1988. Her last work as a director was "Angry Young Penguins" at the Church Theatre. Through directing, teaching and personal support, Ewa worked hard to encourage young women theatre directors. The award will assist women directors seeking to establish themselves in the profession, by providing an annual grant for a specific project. For further information on the Ewa Czajor Memorial Fund, contact Jenny Florence at the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust: (03) 663 2681.

* Funding cuts to the arts in the recent stage budget have angered but also mobilised Melbourne's arts community. A new organization, the Arts Industry Council has been formed to act as a lobby and advocacy group for the broad arts and entertainment industry. Already they have met with the Minister and the Premier in an effort to have the funding cuts restored and to persuade the Government that its present approach to arts funding is ill-conceived. A petition is currently being circulated, which calls on the government to recognise that the arts, in all their diversity, are both crucial to the quality of life in Victoria and contribute significantly to the economic well-being of the community. For copies of the petition and further information contact the Arts Industry Council at P.O. Box 131, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205. VAEITB Deputy Chairperson, Kay Morrissey has been instrumental in the Council's formation. She can be contacted at the Crafts Council of Victoria (Tel: (03) 329 0611).

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