

POLART INC.

PolArt Inc. is the governing body of all PolArt festivals staged in any city of Australia and New Zealand. PolArt festival organising committees are a subsidiary of the incorporated entity.



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Introducing two further members of the PolArt Inc Committee



I'm Edyta (Edith) Drakopyl and I'm currently the Secretary for PolArt Inc. I've been on the Committee since its beginnings in 2016, previously acting as the Vice-Secretary. Based in Melbourne, I fell in love with Polish folk dance when I joined the Polish folk group BESKIDY at the age of 4 and a half attending practices regularly for the next 11 years, I got my first taste of performing live to an immensely large audience at PolArt Melbourne 1997. I cannot put into words the awe and passion for Polish dance it inspired in me. Since then, I've been a member of ŁOWICZ for over 15 years, performed in five PolArt festivals, and look forward to officially completing my 'PolArt loop' in Sydney in 2022. With over 25 years' of experience in Polish folk song and dance, having been taught by some incredible choreographers and teachers, I now have the honour of passing on my knowledge onto the next generation of talent as ŁOWICZ'S Artistic Director. Together with my recent commencement of the Polish Choreographers' course in Rzeszów (Polonijny Studium Choreograficzny dla Instruktorów w Rzeszowie), I hope that I can open their eyes to the colourful world of Polish song and dance. My passion for the Polish arts is what drives my involvement in PolArt Inc. I wish for everyone in our Polish community to have the opportunity to be mesmerised by a showcase of our incredible culture and traditions upheld by our ancestors through music, theatre, folkloric dance and art for many years to come.



Cześć! My name is Bernie Brzeziński and my role on the PolArt Inc. Committee is that of Treasurer. I have been involved in Polish dancing for as long as I remember, starting with the local Polish School and progressing to TATRY. In the early years of dancing with TATRY I travelled many times to the Eastern States and performed at a number of major theatres. I was also fortunate to participate in the very first PolArt "Art Pol" in Sydney 1975. I clearly remember dancing to a packed audience at the Sydney Opera House which was a real adrenalin rush and privilege. As my performing days ended I supported TATRY by looking after the "boys" costumes. I did have the pleasure however of performing in Rzeszów in 2002 after being teased by my daughters that they would be dancing in Poland and I would not. I could not and would not let that happen. Since 2000, I have been a committee member for TATRY and was also involved in planning the Adelaide PolArt. With the passing of Pawel Zajac in 2018, I have taken on more senior administrative role in TATRY, ensuring that I can enjoy seeing all of the groups perform. It is such a buzz to see the smiles on the faces of the folkloric performers as they receive applause for "giving their all". My wish for the future is that PolArt festivals will continue to bring the same memories, joy and friendships for all those who take part, as they have for me.

"PolArt 2022 Sydney" Organising Committee



Agatha Satala - President

- 30 years' community experience including fundraising, and event management
- Committee member planning previous Sydney PolArt festivals 1991 & 2003
- Vice President of Polish Foundation in NSW
- 20 years folkloric dance experience in KUJAWY and SYRENKA
- Practicing Solicitor for 20 years specialising in Family Law & Commercial Regs
- Self employed managing her own business



Daniel Gadd - Vice President

- 40 years' involvement with Polish Community in Sydney and current President
- Assistant Artistic Director and instructor of PODHALE Folkloric Ensemble
- Attended every PolArt Festival since 1991 as performer and/or group leader
- Lead contingents to Folk Festivals in Rzeszow Poland in 2002 & 2008
- BA in Commerce (Accounting) currently an IT Applications Manager
- 22 years' professional experience in Credit Management, IT education, auditing and Business Analysis



Halina Borysiewicz - Secretary

- Many years of working with Polish Community fulfilling many executive roles
- In her youth, played in the BIAŁO CZERWONI orchestra, attended Polish School & was a folkloric dancer with SYRENKA- now a teacher for the junior group
- Liaison Officer for Polish team attending Invictus Games 2015
- Current Secretary of Fundacja NSW
- Committee member of Polish School in Ashfield, & volunteer for Polish Scouts
- Member of committee planning Sydney PolArt in 2003



Victor Jarmusz- Treasurer

- Worked in Public Accounting since the 1980s
- Dancer with KUJAWY folkloric group in the 1970s
- Holds key position on committee of local sports club
- Acting auditor for many "not-for-profit" organisations
- Member of Chartered Accountants - Australia and New Zealand
- Holds a Business Degree and is a partner in a Public Accounting Practice



Yvonne Kower - Production Director

- 30 years' experience in training actors, dancers and gymnasts
- Owned own dance company and has curated video and dance festivals
- Received an MA in video dance from UNSW
- Former dancer and Artistic Director with SYRENKA has won many awards and has had her work televised internationally.
- Committee member planning Sydney PolArts 1991 and 2003
- Choreographed the finale at Sydney PolArt 2003
- Presenter at National and International conferences
- Graduate of Laban Centre London, LISPA and UMCS Poland (Folklore)
- Trained with theatre practitioners from Gardzienice, Song of Goat Theatre and Teatr Zar.



PolArt Inc's Q's and A's

How has PolArt Inc, responded to the global pandemic?

The threefold purpose of PolArt Inc. is to promote the PolArt festival, facilitate collaboration between artistic organisations and stakeholders, and most importantly, to support and act within its advisory role to forthcoming PolArt Festival Organising Committees to ensure all festivals are planned to the standards and expectations established by the Association. PolArt Inc. has worked closely with the Organising Committee of PolArt Sydney to make an informed decision to postpone the next PolArt festival by 12 months. The mass of closures due to COVID-19, and a series of natural events experienced by New South Wales residents in the preceding months, have heavily influenced our postponement of the next PolArt festival.

Is PolArt Inc. able to advise on the safety of its members during the global pandemic?

The PolArt Inc. Executive Committee represents artistic organisations including folkloric groups, whom have experienced a series of lockdowns over the last few months. By understanding the impact of restrictions across states and countries, we understand the impact of Stage 4 to Stage 1 restrictions experienced by Australians and New Zealanders. We also understand the impact that these restrictions may have had on other soloists, artists, musicians and theatre groups. Strategies that encourage social distancing and hygiene practices are able to be shared with members upon request. We also admire and highly encourage creative and online solutions to keep performers involved and motivated during these difficult times. If you're in need of some creative ideas to keep your ensembles and groups engaged, please reach out to us. It's imperative that we stay in touch with one another through the current pandemic.

What will postponement of PolArt Sydney mean for the timing of future festivals?

PolArt festivals typically take place every three years. At the end of each festival, groups are able to make a bid to host the succeeding festival in their own city. At the conclusion of PolArt Brisbane 2018, Sydney was nominated to host the next PolArt festival, and due to the current health and economic landscape, will commence its festival in December, 2022. PolArt Inc. has determined that in order to provide hosting cities/countries the maximum time to engage artists, book venues, fund raise, and prepare future festivals, all subsequent PolArt festivals will take place at three-year intervals thereafter (i.e. 2025, 2028).

How will the postponement of the festival for one year affect the administration of PolArt Inc.?

Firstly, PolArt Inc. has decided to forego payment of fees for the year 2020. As such no payments are required until 2021. Currently, there is an option to pay one triennial fee of \$250 AUD (which would cover you from 2019 -2022) or three yearly instalments of \$90 AUD each (2019, 2021, 2022). The fee currently covers all administration and secretarial costs for PolArt Inc. In addition, the current Executive Committee have agreed to extend their term of office by one year to enable a smooth transition to the succeeding committee, which will coincide with the 2023 Annual General Meeting. As such, we highly encourage you to invite other artistic groups to join PolArt Inc. this year. Your membership allows you to access knowledgeable individuals who can offer guidance and advice on a wide range of related topics. It also allows us to ensure that the next PolArt festival will be a highly successful and positive experience. It is also the best way for you to safeguard the continuation of future PolArt festivals. With this year's discount, why not join this year? If you know of any artistic organisation, with 10 members or more that is interested in joining our organisation, please contact Edyta Drakopyl at: polartincorporated@gmail.com.au.



www.polartinc.com.au
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PolArt Inc.

What has your PolArt Inc Committee been up to ?

- Monthly Zoom meetings with representation from "PolArt 2022 Sydney" Organising Committee.
- Supporting the Sydney Organising Committee through managing the postponement of the next festival.
- Updating and archiving data to our website: www.polartinc.com.au
- Setting long and short term goals.
- Facilitating the completion of legal PolArt documentation.
- Fulfilling the role of broker to access support and funding for the next festival.
- Sharing information regarding health and safety for groups during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Branding and creation of a Logo

PolArt festivals are held every 3-4 years in capital cities around Australia. They have been held in Sydney (1975, 1991, 2003), Adelaide (1981, 1994, 2009), Brisbane (1988, 2000, 2018), Melbourne (1984, 1997, 2015), Hobart (2006) and Perth (2012), with each festival growing larger and more popular than the previous.

Each PolArt festival starts well before confirmation is made as to where the next one will be held. At the conclusion of each PolArt, there is a meeting of representatives from all the participating groups to choose the next location for the festival and to choose a new PolArt Inc. Executive Committee. Decisions regarding the next festival location are typically made by viewing choreographed audio visual presentations from regional representatives. From the moment that a location bid is successful, three years of event management on an enormous scale starts from concept to realisation.

It is no wonder that the festival has such a high success rate, as it taps into our Polish culture which is steeped in a rich history incorporating all aspects of the visual and performing arts. The 15th Festival of Polish Visual and Performing Arts "PolArt 2022 " will be branded by a stylish logo.



Inspired by the overarching theme of PolArt Sydney 2022 - A Polish Tapestry Through Time - the PolArt Sydney 2022 logo is reminiscent of a subtle artistic element found commonly around the Polish home - koronka (lace). This intricate creative detail found on traditional folk clothing, everyday home-wears, and festive decorations, ties together all aspects of Polish life, culture and art. It is a traditional item that has also traversed time into the contemporary Polish psyche.

The design was developed by committee member Jonathan (Johnny) Chawa, who has attended the past six consecutive PolArt Festivals. Johnny's objective was to create a logo that was unique and that could be instantly recognisable and memorable. Johnny cites inspiration from the Polish multi-disciplinary street artist Nespoon, who paints, weaves, and adheres lace patterns in her larger-than-life installations. The colour palette chosen is representative of the Polish flag - with red symbolising energy, strength, passion and love.

"Why laces? Because in laces there is an aesthetic code, which is deeply embedded in every culture. In every lace we find symmetry, some kind of order and harmony... isn't that what we all seek instinctively?" - Nespoon

Where can I get more information about PolArt Inc.?

You can find out more about what we do through our website: www.polartinc.com.au. Here, you can also view our previous newsletters and stay up to date as we archive all of our data from past PolArt Festivals from 1975-2018.

We would love to know what your group has been up to. Your news may be featured on the PolArt Inc website, Facebook page or newsletter. Please send all photos, articles and information to polartincorporated@gmail.com.



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