

Vale Andrew Ross AM

The Australia Council wishes to acknowledge the passing of Andrew Ross AM and recognise his significant contribution to Australian theatre.

During an impressive career spanning five decades, Mr Ross championed many First Nations writers, directors and actors. Among his many achievements, he directed works including *The Dreamers* for the Festival of Perth in 1982, and *Bran Nue Dae* for Perth Festival in 1990.

He was instrumental in the founding of two Western Australian theatre companies, including Black Swan Theatre Company, as well as a children's theatre company that later became Barking Gecko Theatre.

In 2019, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his contribution to performing arts.

Australia Council Head of Theatre Annette Madden said:

“Andrew Ross will be remembered as a generous leader, mentor and collaborator who helped to shape the face of Australian theatre. His passionate commitment to showcasing First Nations stories has left an enduring legacy. We extend our deepest sympathies to his friends, family and colleagues.”