

Bruce Gladwin

Back to Back Theatre

I am the Artistic Director of Back to Back Theatre company, we employ actors and writers with intellectual disabilities. The work we make plays across the world and is recognised as a shining example of the best of contemporary theatre.

Through the support of Hive, an initiative of The ABC, The Australia Council and Adelaide Film Festival we had the opportunity to create a 1/2 hour pilot for television. It was called Oddlands, a sci fi dystopian comedy/drama. The ABC, Screen Australia and Film Victoria all supported the creation of a series, but we have been unable to make the series without a commitment from another partner be it an overseas network or streaming platform.

While our theatre work can tour the main stages of Europe, North America and Asia for 25 weeks of the year we struggle to have Netflix, Stan, Amazon, Apple and other screening platforms see or acknowledge our existence. Our cultural equity is lost not because our actors have a disability, our disadvantage comes from being Australian.

Without policy that encourages greater investment in local production we as a nation lose a sense of who we are, we lose diversity and we lose our voice as a nation. We can not import our values from others we must thrash them out through the telling and retelling of our own stories.

I would strongly advocate for policy that requires digital platforms such as Netflix and Stan to produce Australian content as well the re-establishment of quotas to free to air services.

I wish for my submission to be anonymous: No

I wish for my submission to be private: No

Supporting documents:

This submission has been lodged via the [Media, Entertainment & Arts Alliance](#).