

# DRIVE

February 2008 - February 2009



## Project Description

Take from a young man what he lives for and he will make it worth dying for... Drive is a film project challenging young men to explore the fine white line between invincibility and auto-cide. In a community in mourning for the disproportionate loss of its young men to the road Drive will create a new understanding of why this wave of deaths is occurring.

## Host Organisation

BIG hART has become one of Australia's leading arts production and social change companies linking professional performers and artists with marginalized young people, particularly those in isolated rural areas, in productions that address the problems and issues that they face.

## Funding sources

Federal Attorney General's National Community Crime Prevention Fund, Australia Council for the Arts, Department of Family, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, Fosters Foundation, Tas Regional Arts, Tas Community Fund, Department Of Transport And Regional Services, Headway, Lighthouse Film Society, North West Residential Support Services, Foundation For Young Australians, Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, Burnie City Council and Waratah Wynyard Council

## Project Contact

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## Outcomes

The creation of a high school musical in partnership with Wynyard High school that provided opportunities for Drive participants to become peer mentors and educators. New interaction across generations and community services, most importantly the young men taking ownership of a vast interview process that included other young men, grieving families, police, fire and ambulance services.

## Highlights

New leadership taken by emerging youth arts organization the Two Heads Crew who are continuing to build strong relationships in their community with guidance and support from father organization BIG hART.

Building a creative arts culture through developing emerging young artists and producers including Dillon Roberts (Writer), Jim Stedman (Film Maker), Scott Baxter (Designer/illustrator), Billy Mercer (Sound recordist), Ethan Hayward (Filmmaker), Brad Jones (Actor/Photographer) & Jack Holland (Martial Art/Dance) all of whom have received mentoring and training from professional artists in their respective fields.

## Keywords

Film, Wynyard, Youth

## Project workers

Telen Rodwell and Bronwyn Purvis (Producer/Directors)  
Scott Rankin (Writer and Creative Director)  
Leah Katz (Sound Designer)  
Natasha Dwyer (Interactive Designer)  
Vanessa Milton (Editor)  
Stuart Thorne (Sound Recordist)  
Sarah Davies (Cinematographer)  
Mat T Davis (Cinematographer)  
Lisa Garland (Photographer)  
Stephanie Finn (Researcher)

Drive is about identity. It is about the rites of passage that young men face as they move toward adulthood, gaining a driver's licence and the legal right to drink alcohol. By the time a young man reaches seventeen years of age his engine is running hot on a mix of naivety, anticipation, fear and courage. Drive will hold a mirror to this experience and to the fundamental experience of every young man striving to be someone.

Drive is a film project designed for and about young men struggling to come of age across the isolated North West Coast of Tasmania. So far the documentary process has involved over a hundred at risk young men, working intensively with a core group of thirty. Professional artists through workshops including all aspects of filmmaking are mentoring the young men. Specifically Camera operation and technique, sound recording and engineering, scriptwriting, performance, sound track composition, editing and the suite of

postproduction processes. Using their newly developed skills they have interviewed families, friends and the professionals that are most affected by the premature deaths of their peers, particularly in motor vehicle tragedy and suicide. Tracing the grief lines, the young men have interviewed over 150 people throughout their community.

Most importantly the documentary has brought together groups who are often in conflict socially including law enforcement officers and young men who have committed crime. The documentary filmmakers and young men have worked with thirty community partners including Tasmania Police, Tasmania Fire and Ambulance Services, Ashley Detention Centre, Youth Justice, Child Protection, Community Corrections, Drug and Alcohol Unit Burnie, Circular Head Aboriginal Corporation, Disability support services, local high schools, local councils, clinical psychologists and trauma counselors.

Big hART's process is simple; Engage those on the margins of their community in a multi-task focused, non-welfare arts based project, with an experienced creative team of professionals to create high visibility for the issues they and their community face. In this way, participants make a positive contribution, build social inclusion and become part of a solution rather than the problem. BIG hART has won multiple awards, including, a World Health Organization (WHO) Safe community Award, and 7 Australian Heads of Government Violence Prevention Awards.

There is no other integrated program on the North West Coast that provides the intense support and access to this suite of services to break the cycle of generational welfare dependency. There is no other approach like Big hART's that identifies the ability and desire of the young person and matches it with education, training, employment and social participation opportunities on a one on one basis. Projects create outcomes for the young people as well as the community volunteers and partners, building capacity, resilience and sustainability.

[www.drive.org.au](http://www.drive.org.au)  
[www.bighart.org](http://www.bighart.org)

## Images

Top: Lone Skater (Detail) Photographer: Stuart Thorne  
Bottom: Zac & the EJ (Detail) Photographer: Brad Jones

*"To bring many types of young men together was a big achievement from skaters, dancers, drifters and artists. To give young men a positive outlet was confronting for some, but to see them change was a great thing."*

- Jason Bakes (Composer/ Arts worker)

