



STATE OPERA
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

24th February 2022

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to write in support of Six Foot Something Production's application for an Australia Council for the Arts / Arts Projects for Organisations grant to produce the work *Geek Cuisine* for Dream Big Festival (May 2023).

The proposed work has the potential to create many points of cultural engagement and connection with people not usually known for their interest in the operatic art form. The creation of an opera specifically targeted at family audiences will help to expose young people to the art form of opera – inspiring future audiences and performers. In addition, *Geek Cuisine* will provide an opportunity for Australian writers, creative teams and performers to work in the genre, to push its boundaries and experiment with the form.

However, the development and presentation of such works is one of the most expensive undertakings to which a company can commit. State Opera applauds Six Foot Something's initiative in undertaking this project and is committed to offering in-kind support in the form of use of our rehearsal space, and whatever back-of-house services we can offer.

It is important that the next generation of local opera talent receives an experience such as *Geek Cuisine* as they develop their professional experience. Under the guidance of composer Mark Simeon Ferguson and writer/director David Lampard they will rehearse and perform to the highest level. Both creatives are regularly employed by South Australian companies and enjoy a formidable, deserved reputation in the industry. The opportunities provided by the creation, development and performance of *Geek Cuisine* can only benefit State Opera, the local industry and the Australian opera scene in general.

We are proud to be working with Six Foot Something. David Lampard, the company's co-founder, has previously directed many operas with our company, every production garnering much praise from critics and audiences alike. A new collaboration between our two companies is long overdue. We look forward to joining with Six Foot Something to reimagine what opera can be.

Geek Cuisine is an exciting opportunity to foster the social connectedness that comes from attending arts and culture with like-minded people from diverse backgrounds. It will provide an ideal opportunity for cross cultural artistic dialogue and allow our two companies to develop our presence and resonance in South Australia.

Geek Cuisine has the possibility of breaking down some of the perceived barriers of entry to our artform; to demonstrate that opera is accessible for a broad range of audiences. State Opera commends this collaboration as worthy of your serious consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Maunder AM

Artistic Director

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