



Today I am

An artistic event to honour the
Women Survivors of Wolston Park

Featuring the art of Anne Wallace and the Today I Am Choir

Thursday 15 June 2017
Queensland Performing Arts Centre

Remembering Osler House

by Barbara Lane

Screams echo down the hallway of my mind, as they did the cells
and hallways of that house of endless horrors, through the years.

My body still remembers all the shame of what I witnessed,
And the corrosive, all-pervasive acid-urine smell of fears.

I was thirteen years.

The sobbing, wailing background noise that ate away the night;

The soul-shattering, too-sudden... cessation of the screams,
These joined the tortured memories I buried in the abyss,
To carve away my childhood, brutally, as they stole my dreams.

I was only thirteen.

The milling, naked bodies in the showers with no doors;
The excrement and sanitary pads, my first time, on the floors.
Betrayed by my own government, the state that had my care,
In an adult asylum for the criminally insane; I'd pulled out all my hair.

I was only a child.

Hollow-eyed people, shock-treatment blank, helpless,
And no longer knowing their names;
The intellectually disabled and terrified children
Still haunt in their drugged, bruised and bare-naked shame.

I was thirteen years old.

Program

Presented by Access Arts, Open Minds and the Queensland Mental Health Commission

Welcome

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The Women in the Boat

The story of the Women Survivors of Wolston Park
and poetry reading by Barbara Lane

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Presentation

To Anne Wallace and the Women Survivors of Wolston Park

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Conversation

The importance of social justice and the arts as a healing tool

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Launch

2017 Access Arts Achievement Award

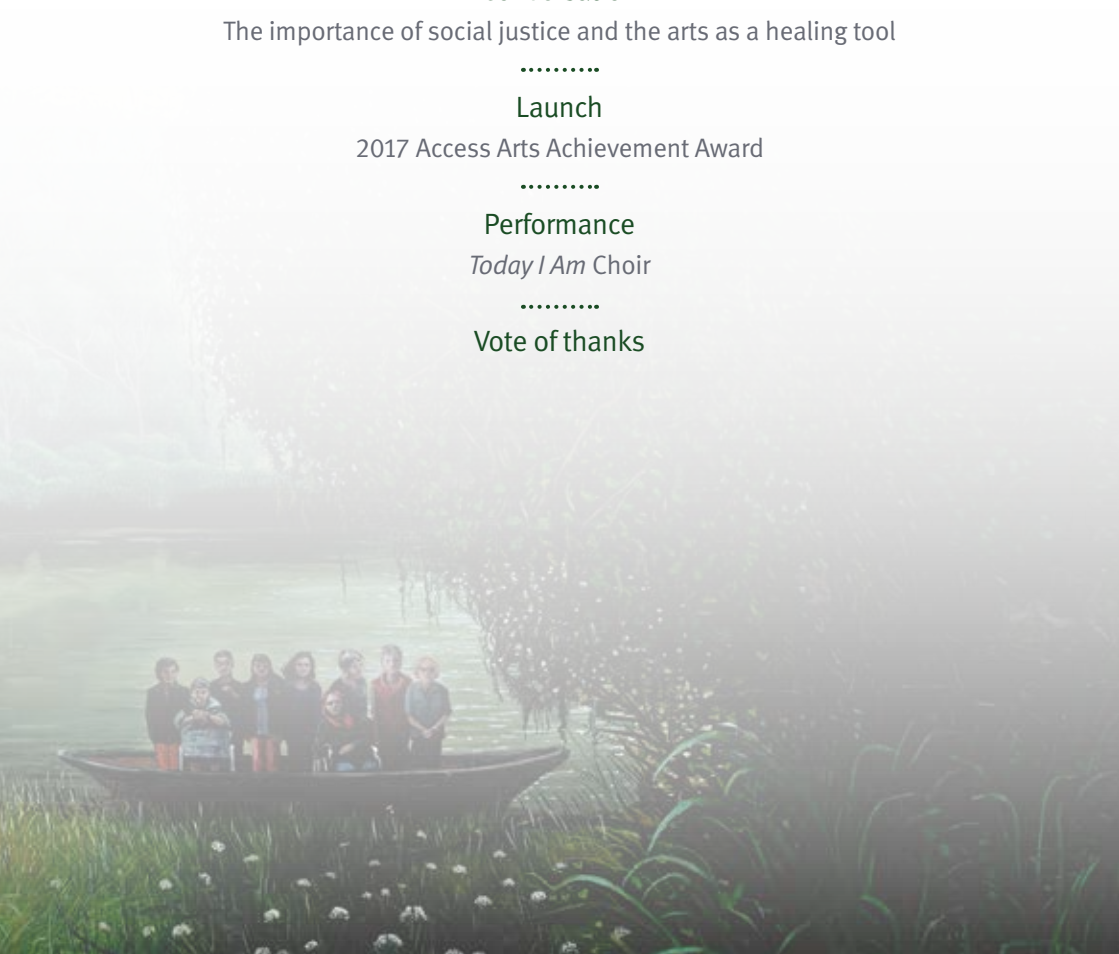
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Performance

Today I Am Choir

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Vote of thanks



About the Women Survivors of Wolston Park

The Women Survivors of Wolston Park were children in the care of the State wrongfully placed in adult mental health facilities, where they survived abuse that significantly impacted their lives.

The Women received an apology from the State in 2010.

Anne's haunting painting *Passing the River at Woogaroo Reach* and series of portraits pay tribute to the Women's strength and resolve.

About the Today I Am Choir

Led by Queensland's iconic singer songwriters Emma Dean and Annie Peterson, Access Arts' *Today I Am* Choir combines many voices to create wellbeing and celebrate a passion for singing.

Access Arts supports people who experience disability or disadvantage to take part and excel in the arts.

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