



David Pledger is a contemporary artist, curator and activist working within and between the performing, visual and media arts in Australia, Asia and Europe. His live performances, installations, interactive artworks, documentaries, digital art and discursive events have been presented in various locations including theatres, galleries, museums, a car-park, a stables, a cattleyard, a suburban house, a film studio and the Australian Institute of Sport. His work is notable for engaging publics in productive and provocative ways. From his initial practice, live performance, he has developed a cross-disciplinary dramaturgy in which a central platform is engaging with artists across artforms and experts from social, scientific and academic fields.

Recently cited as 'one of Australia's true creative originals' in a national survey of the performing arts, David is the recipient of numerous career awards, grants and commissions from local, state, federal and international entities for his work as a director, designer, writer and actor in live performance and new media. Distinguished by collaborations with media arts pioneer Jeffrey Shaw, visual artists William Kelly and Callum Morton, choreographer Shimizu Shinjin and theatre director, Kim Kwang Lim, his practice interests include the body, the digital realm, politics and public space. In 1995, he co-founded [not yet it's difficult](#) (NYID), one of Australia's leading interdisciplinary arts companies.

In 2016, he launched a serial performance work [David Pledger Is Running For Office](#) in Canberra ten days ahead of the July Federal Election and was elected Federal Minister for Empathy. He also created *Hotelling*, a new 24-hour-plus 'happening' embedded in the iconic QT Hotel, Surfers' Paradise.

David's curatorial practice focuses on developing the optimal conditions for artistic production out of which exhibition and programming ambitions are realised. He operates within mentoring, practice-based, pedagogical and presentation contexts. He is currently engaged in various artistic adventures with social change agency, [Igniting Change](#), the Arts Centre Gold Coast around his future-focussed cultural provocation [2970°](#) and the Spatial Information Architecture Lab (SIAL) at the School of Architecture and Design, RMIT, where he is on a research scholarship investigating the effect of 'noise' on our social, cultural and political systems.

He is regularly published in online and print journals such as The Conversation, Arts Hub, Artlink, Art Wires, Dancehouse Diary, The Daily Review and Platform Papers on matters of artistic practice, cultural policy, social commentary, arts activism and international relations.