

THE
STREET



ICARUS

Created and performed by
Christopher Samuel Carroll



The Street Theatre in association with
Bare Witness Theatre presents

ICARUS

Created by Christopher Samuel Carroll

27 February – 3 March 2019
The Street Theatre, Street Two, Canberra



Production

Cast

Created and performed by Christopher Samuel Carroll

Creative team

Sound Designer	Kimmo Vennonen
Lighting Designer	Jed Buchanan
Stage Manager	barb barnett
Production Crew	Jed Buchanan William Malam Kimmo Vennonen
Production Photographer	Shelly Higgs
Marketing Artwork	DAMS

Icarus opens at The Street Theatre Wednesday 27 February 2019. The performance runs for 55 minutes without an interval.



If you'd like to print this program, set your printer to print at 100% A4 Landscape for best results.

About the play

In a distant city a young man plays video games, feeds his cat all that's left in his fridge. Outside, his city is a war zone. Grey morning in London. A man plummets from the sky and hits pavement. Stories of falling bodies are broadcast all over the country, their bodies discovered in car parks, playgrounds and quiet suburban streets. *Icarus* draws from the hundreds of reported cases of those who have taken the ultimate leap of faith, stowing away in the landing gear of planes in an attempt to escape intolerable conditions of conflict, disaster and oppression. Few survive. What's the difference between recklessness and courage when impossible odds are the only chance you have?



From the Creator

I believe in theatre as a crucible for ideas - or, as Augusto Boal put it, "a rehearsal for the revolution" - and yet, the ongoing challenge for the artist is how to communicate something you feel strongly about, without moralising to people, as if you yourself have the answers. Theatre can invite us to look closer, to bridge the gap between self and other, and develop our capacity for empathy by 'walking in someone else's shoes'.

The first impulse for this piece came from reading a newspaper article some five years ago about the body of a man, found in a London suburb, who had stowed away in the landing gear of a plane. The evolution of the form of *Icarus*, as a wordless piece of theatre that takes place in an empty space, came from my very lack of understanding, and my desire to confront it – it is very much a leap of the imagination. The everyman character of this journey could be in a far-off place. He could just as easily be somewhere far more familiar. The language he may speak is less important than his identity as a human being, and how that is determined by the circumstances that affect him.

Christopher Samuel Carroll
February 2019

How it all happened

Icarus was developed in 2018 through The Street's First Seen: new works-in-progress program, and progressed further with support from Belconnen Arts Centre, and Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centres through the Ralph Indie Development Program. It premiered at The Blue Room, Perth, in January 2019 as part of the Perth Fringe Festival with touring support from artsACT project funding. *Icarus* was declared Winner in the Dance and Physical Theatre Category.

Government Acknowledgements

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Supported by

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Ainslie + Gorman Arts Centre
Belconnen Arts Centre
The Blue Room Theatre, Perth
Perform Australia (formerly CADA)
Hannah Portwine
Shelly Higgs

and all who attended the First Seen showing of *Icarus* in 2018 providing valuable feedback for progressing the work.





Christopher Samuel Carroll

Christopher Samuel Carroll is an Irish theatre-artist based in Canberra. As an actor, he has worked with companies all over Ireland, and as artistic director of Bare Witness Theatre Company, creates physical theatre in ensembles and as a solo performer.

Described as “the master of the solo

performance” (Canberra Critics’ Circle), Christopher has built a reputation as a daring and skilled creator of original one-man shows. His Butoh adaptation of *Paradise Lost*, called “a culturally shattering event” (City News), was developed during a five-week residency at Belconnen Arts Centre, before touring to Adelaide and Perth, where it was nominated for The West Australian Arts Editor Award and shortlisted for the Best Theatre award at Fringe World 2017. His Victorian blockbuster, *Early Grave, Fashionably Late*, sold-out at Smith’s Alternative after a week-long run at The Butterfly Club in Melbourne as part of their curated summer program in December 2016.

Since moving to Canberra in 2016, he also has appeared in: *The Normal Heart* (Everyman Theatre Company); *Anthems and Angels* (Body Ecology); *The Mermaid* (Bare Witness Theatre) a performance art piece with his partner, Hanna Cormick, at the Art, Not Apart festival; and most recently as Malvolio in Twelfth Night (*Shakespeare by the Lakes*). Christopher has also been part of The Street’s First Seen program working David Cole’s comedy-drama *Irene’s Wish* and Tom Davis’ satire *Sherpas*.

Christopher is a graduate of The Samuel Beckett Centre, Trinity College Dublin, and Ecole Internationale du Theatre Jacques Lecoq, Paris.



Kimmo Vennonen
Sound Designer

In 2010 Kimmo won the MEAA Green Room Award for creative and innovative sound design. In 1991 his work on Collaborations with Jim Denley won the prestigious Prix Italia for the ABC. He studied immersive sound in a geodesic dome, becoming an

ANU Visiting Fellow in the late nineties. He has run a music mastering studio at Gorman Arts Centre since 1997.

Designs for The Street include: *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again; Cold Light; The Chain Bridge; Where I End and You Begin; Bartleby; All This Living, and The Faithful Servant*. Other work includes *The Slip Lane* (AITC); *Ghosts in the Scheme* (bigHart); *Verbatim; Antigone* (CYT); *Blue Roof; The Lost Thing*; and, *Pearl vs the World* (Jigsaw Theatre). He collaborated with Denise Higgins and Gary Smith on *Vox Nautica* (ANCA), *The Barbed Maze* (CCAS) and on *Anthology* (Morris & Buining) at Westlake.



Jed Buchanan
Lighting Designer

Jed is an emerging lighting designer, who is beginning to explore the world of professional theatre in Canberra and beyond. After working extensively with the ANU student theatre community and numerous comedy and theatre festivals, Jed has been working in

lighting and production at the Street Theatre including the lighting design for *Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again* in 2018. Career highlights include working with countless talented performers and directors through The Street Theatre’s dramatic repertoire, and supporting a hilarious cohort of comedians and comedienues over a number of years for the Canberra Comedy Festival.



barb barnett
Stage Manager

barb has stage managed for: Australian Chamber Orchestra, Canberra International Music Festival, Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Llewellyn Hall [A.N.U.], and The Street, barb barnett is a Canberra-based puppeteer, performer, director,

and dramaturg. barb works with playwrights, dramatists, home-grown independent artists, collectives and companies to devise, stimulate and craft challenging and engaging locally-written, performed and produced theatre and performance installations.

Her keen interest in sustainable independent arts practice, and enduring support of youth arts over more than twenty years, have seen her collaborate with diverse local, national and international practitioners. Some of the remarkable companies barb has worked with include – Aberrant, Splinters [Theatre of Spectacle], Boho Interactive, BKÜ, Women on a Shoestring, EARTH [Visual & Physical], COUP Canberra and The Street.

barb is the Artistic Director of serious theatre – a local, independent theatre-arts Collective. serious and barb are multiple Canberra Critics’ Circle award winners, and barb is an MEAA Green Room award recipient.

About The Street

The Street is Canberra's leading creative producer dedicated to contemporary performance, and presenting bold work from other places. Inspired by our geography, history and people, we champion creative process alongside finished work; rich dialogue with our community, and in our city of ideas, inquisitive artists who have something to say about the world.

Over 24 years, the company has established itself as an essential part of Canberra's cultural and imaginative life. Our home is The Street Theatre in City West, where cast, creatives, artists, and audiences meet in our three performance spaces and café. We are dedicated to bringing distinctive and diverse Australian stories to the stage, with many of the finest and much loved creative talent in the region and beyond, including Canberra's diaspora, on our stages. Original works developed and produced have included: *Epitaph*, *The Weight of Light*, *Tourmaline*, *Cold Light*, *The Iliad Out Loud*, *Pigman's Lament*, *The Faithful Servant*, *The Chain Bridge*, *From a Black Sky*, *M.P.*, *Bartleby*, *Where I End & You Begin*, *How to be (or not to be) Lower*, *Johnny Castellano is Mine*, *In Loco Parentis*, and *Underage House Party Play*.

Through our development programs, The Street promotes the creation of high quality original performance work contributing towards a body of stage work encouraging debate on the social, economic, cultural and political relationships central to the reality of lives of Canberrans.

About Bare Witness Theatre

Bare Witness Theatre Company is an artistic vehicle led by Christopher Samuel Carroll. We produce work in Canberra and beyond, with a commitment to theatre that is physically rigorous and bristles with life. We're interested in work which exploits the immediacy of the live experience, and in particular, the performer at the threshold of their limits - in other words, 'in the mouth of the wolf'. We've put on plays in Ireland, the U.K., Australia, and on occasion, someone's living-room. We draw from a wide tradition of theatrical styles, from cabaret to mime, from comedy to Butoh, to serve each story we tell.

More so than ever, we're preoccupied with personal stories which, because they are marginal, or unexpected, or inconvenient, face a battle for recognition against the generalised narratives that prevail in the public (and political) discourse. Curious? So are we. Get in touch at info@barewitnesstheatre.com

www.barewitnesstheatre.com

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Jamie Hladky, Henry Kazar

The Street Theatre acknowledges the Ngunnawal peoples, the First Peoples of Country on which The Street Theatre stands, and we pay our respects to their ancestors and Elders, and to our shared future.



The Street is an ACT arts facility managed by The Stagemaster Inc, a not for profit community organisation, supported by the ACT Government.



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