



THE GIRL WS



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THE GIRL WHO GLOWS

BY ZEEKO & JO TURNER

WORLD PREMIERE Season at The Street Theatre CANBERRA 18 - 21 July 2024

An awesome musical adventure about a girl who glows.

WRITTEN BY

Zeeko and Jo Turner

CAST

Zeeko

Jess Ciampa

Jess Green

David Hewitt

CREATIVE TEAM

DirectorJo Turner

Lighting DesignVerity Hampson

Set and Costume
Design
Kathleen Kershaw

Image DesignPip Runciman

Video Design Laura Turner

Sound Design Kimmo Vennonen

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager Rhiley Winnett

Lighting OperatorWayne Bateup

Sound Operator Kimmo Vennonen

Stage Technicians
Wayne Bateup
William Malam
Kyle Sheedy

Set ConstructionMartin Thomas

Costume Maker Mary Kershaw **Publicity** Su Hodge

Production Photography Novel Photographic

Videography Craig Alexander

Poster Artwork
Design♥Cult

Marketing Artwork
Design♥Cult



SYNOPSIS AND SETTING

Zeeko are a band who play music for kids. Lead singer, Jess, wants to do more than just sing songs. She wants to tell an important story about the kind of world we are leaving for our children. Told from Zeeko's rehearsal studio, in a suburban garage, this is that story. It's about an imaginary girl called Luna, who happens to glow a bit more brightly than anyone else. In Luna's world it's getting a bit darker every single day, but the adults are ignoring it. Luna knows though because she glows. She soon discovers that she is not the only thing that glows and is sent on a trans-Australian journey of discovery to solve the problem of the encroaching darkness. Once started though, Luna's imaginary story, takes on a life of its own. The grown-ups are no longer completely in control. In fact, Zeeko can't work out how the story ends. They (and Luna) are going to need your help to finish it. But only if you're a kid. Grown-ups have caused enough trouble already.

Through music, song, narration, puppetry and character, The Girl Who Glows, will take you on an awesome adventure of discovery where you'll meet rapping platypuses, operatic tortoise frogs, mystical curlews and a wonderland of bioluminescent light.



GENESIS AND DEVELOPMENT

Zeeko and Jo share a love of the ridiculous. Every part of the process of writing music and story was infused with a sense of fun and play. The creative process was highly collaborative. It began with lots of talking and deep thinking. We thought about what happens when adults avoid difficult decisions that profoundly affect their children's future. We were moved by Julia Baird's 'Phosphorescence' and how it reminds us to be in awe of nature. We discovered that many Australian marsupials glow in the dark. We improvised, played music, recorded, edited, discussed, re-improvised and shaped the work over a couple of years. A subverted hero's journey evolved and music and lyrics written that served or challenged the story. Jo mostly wrote the script, Zeeko mostly composed the music and they mostly wrote lyrics together.

ARTIST STATEMENT

We live in challenging ecological times. We have, to a large degree, turned our back on nature, forgotten to listen to it. No longer in awe of it, it is easier for us to use it purely for our benefit. But just what are we losing? Children are the voice of the future, yet we don't often listen to them either. In general listening is a bit out of fashion, arguing is much more popular. The Girl Who Glows explores what happens when we stop listening to small voices and try to bend them to our will. Luna is only one child who glows, but lots of small things, when they're joined together can make something very bright indeed. It's the space between us that is the darkness.





BIOGRAPHIES



JESS CIAMPA BOY JESS

Jess Ciampa is a multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. Jess has performed, recorded and toured internationally with artists including: Tina Arena, Tim Draxl, Deborah Conway, Bernie Hayes Quartet, Dog Trumpet, Monsieur Camembert, The Whitlams, Ian Moss, Jeff Duff, Don Burrows, Dale Barlow, Margaret Urlich, Wendy Mathews, Lily Dior, The Catholics, Abby Dobson, Kamahl, Paul Capsis, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, The Australian Chamber Orchestra, The Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Synergy Percussion, Bolshoi Ballet, The Royal Ballet and the Sydney Dance Company.



JESS GREEN GIRL JESS

Canberra born Jess Green (AKA Pheno) is a guitarist and vocalist. In her twenty-year career she has established herself as a genre-defying performer and composer. Jess has performed with jazz and blues luminaries including, The Catholics, Jim Conway, and Renee Geyer, as well as contemporary artists Laura Jean, Katie Noonan and Georgia Mooney. She has supported touring international pop icons including Joan as Policewoman (US) and The New Pornographers (CAN) and collaborates as an improviser across jazz, new music and contemporary classical. She is a much-loved children's performer and has played with Justine Clarke, appeared on Playschool and toured for over 15 years for Musica Viva in Schools. Canberra audiences know Jess's iconic song We Are The Skywhales commissioned by Patricia Piccinini as part of Every Heart Sings Skywhales events, as well as working extensively in community music. In 2024 Jess was nominated for ACT woman of the year for her work with the Girls Jazz+ Program at the ANU. Commissioned works include for the Canberra International Music Festival, The Australian Art Orchestra, Sydney Festival and Luminescence Chamber Singers.



DAVID HEWITT

David Hewitt is a percussionist, vocalist, composer, improviser, educator and multidisciplinary performer who received his training in Australia, Japan and the USA. He is a co-creator of the category, defying outfit *The Spaghetti Western Orchestra* which appeared at London South Bank, BBC Proms at Royal Albert Hall, Montreal International Jazz Festival and gained five-star reviews at the Edinburgh Fringe. Previously a member of Synergy Percussion, and a founding member of Taikoz, David has worked with: Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Dance Company, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Made Opera, Bell Shakespeare Company, Speak Percussion, The Song Company, Andrée Greenwell, ASTRA, Robyn Archer, Big hART, Musica Viva Australia, Old VanTheatre Company and the Four Winds Music Festival. He has performed for HH The Dalai Lama, at the Sydney Olympic Games and as soloist with Queensland and Tasmanian Symphony Orchestras. David has lectured at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne University, Macquarie University, Newcastle Conservatorium of Music and the University of Western Sydney.



JO TURNER WRITER AND DIRECTOR

Jo Turner works as a director, writer, actor and dramaturg across a wide range of theatre. He is a graduate of Melbourne University (B.A./B.Comm) and the Ecole Internationale de Theatre Jacques Lecog (1993-1995). As a director and actor, he has particularly specialised in new work, both written and devised, and has a wealth of experience nationally and internationally including productions for Belvoir, Bell Shakespeare, La Boite, STC, ATYP and NORPA. His work as a writer has primarily been for younger audiences. New work includes two commissioned plays for ATYP, one for the Sydney Theatre Company (Education) and the independent production. Ruby's Wish (Cubby House Co) which premiered at Belvoir St Theatre before touring to the Sydney Opera House, the Arts Centre Melbourne, Parramatta Riverside, and the Awesome Festival. Perth. Jo and the team from Cubby House Co were awarded the Phillip Parsons Fellowship in 2017 to create a new work for family audiences that explores children in detention. That work, Under the Same Sky is still in development. Jo was also an artist in residence at the Sydney Theatre Company as a commissioned playwright and a director and teaches casually for the full-time acting courses at NIDA and the Actor's Centre



VERITY HAMPSON LIGHTING DESIGNER

Verity Hampson is a lighting and projection designer for theatre, dance, opera, film and television. Verity has worked with many of Australia's leading directors and choreographers including Judy Davis, Leticia Caceres, Lee Lewis, Imara Savage, Sarah Goodes, Gale Edwards, Kate Champion, Meryl Tankard, Stuart Maunder, Sam Strong and Eamon Flack. Since graduating from NIDA, Verity has forged a formidable career, designing over 120 productions including *Venus in Fur* (The Street Theatre); the multiple award-winning productions of *The Drover's Wife* and *Faith Healer* (Belvoir); *The Bleeding Tree* (Griffin); *After Dinner* and *Machinal* (Sydney Theatre Company); *The Boys* and *The Floating World* (Griffin); and Helpmann Award nominated production *Fly Away Peter* (Sydney Chamber Opera). Verity won a Sydney Theatre Award for Best Mainstage Lighting Design for her work on *Machinal* with Sydney Theatre Company. She was awarded the Mike Walsh Fellowship which took her to Broadway to work with projection designers 59 Productions.



KATHLEEN KERSHAW SET AND COSTUMES

Kathleen Kershaw is a set and costume designer working across Canberra and Sydney. Studied at NIDA receiving a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Design for Performance in 2022. While at NIDA, Kathleen created the Costume Design for its production of *Picnic at Hanging Rock*. She was Production Designer for *The Job I Took* music video by Sophisticated Dingo. For her final production at NIDA Kathleen was production designer and co-devisor of *Prem Patr*. First developed as part of NIDA's Festival of Emerging Artists *Prem Patr* has since had multiple showings across India. Set and Costume Design: *Crime and Punishment* (The Street Theatre); Production Designer: *Goodworks; Rockspeare 1H6* (Mill Theatre at Dairy Road); *You Can't Tell Anyone* (Canberra Youth Theatre); Costume Design: *Loot* (New Theatre); *King Lear* (Echo Productions).



PIP RUNCIMAN IMAGE DESIGNER

Pip Runciman works across the creative industries of film, theatre and large-scale cultural and international events as a production or event designer, design assistant and graphic artist. Work includes Assistant Set Decorator on the Netflix series *Pieces of Her*, Festival Designer for the 2019, 2018 and 2017 Sydney Festival, including the design of the 2018 and 2017 Meriton Festival Village and was the Designer of the 2018 Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony. Working closely with the New York Scenic Supervisors, Pip was also the Scenic Associate for the 60th Anniversary production of *My Fair Lady*, directed by Dame Julie Andrews. Pip has worked as a designer for both established and independent theatre companies including Sydney Theatre Company, Bell Shakespeare, Belvoir St Theatre, Griffin Theatre Company, The State Theatre Company of South Australia and Darlinghurst Theatre and as the Design Associate on *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert - The Musical* in Milan and Sao Paulo.



LAURA TURNER VIDEO DESIGNER

Laura Turner works across theatre, film, and visual arts. She has presented work in various forms and creative roles with Sydney Festival, Bell Shakespeare Theatre Company, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Sydney Theatre Company, Sydney Film Festival, Art Gallery of NSW, Belvoir St Theatre, Sydney Opera House, Australian Theatre for Young People, Riverside Theatres, Legs on the Wall, Merrigong Theatre Company, Living Room Theatre, Clockfire Theatre and In Transit Co. She has worked as a director, cinematographer, editor and video designer across live performance, film, and music videos, and exhibited her own art work with M Contemporary Gallery, dLUX Media Arts, UNSW Galleries and Articulate Project Space. Laura has taught workshops in theatre and film making at various organisations and holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts / Arts from UNSW Art and Design. She is currently completing an MA in screen directing at AFTRS.

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KIMMO VENNONEN SOUND DESIGN

Kimmo Vennonen won the MEAA Green Room Award in 2010 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: Crime and Punishment; In His Words; Art; Breaking The Castle; Flight Memory; Metamorphosis; Icarus; Revolt. She Said. Revolt Again; Cold Light; The Faithful Servant; The Chain Bridge; Where I End and You Begin; Bartleby; and, All This Living. 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).



RHILEY WINNETT STAGE MANAGEMENT

Rhiley Winnett is a Stage Manager and avid theatre maker. They have been working as a Stage Manager for 7 years and their notable works include: Crime and Punishment (The Street Theatre); Normal; How to Votel; You Can't Tell Anyone (Canberra Youth Theatre); Wolf's Lullaby (Echo Theatre); People You May Know (Lucid Theatre); I Have No Enemies (Bare Witness Theatre).





ARTISTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Canberra International Music Festival, Cuttagee Beach Cottages, Roland Peelman, Zeeko, Jed Silver, Pip Runciman, Imogen Keen, The Mumbulla School, Monkey Baa, Helen Christinson, Hugo Law Group, Tallulah Stephen, Riverside Theatre, Merrigong Theatre Company, Sydney Festival, Create NSW, Arts ACT, Four Winds, The Street Theatre for generous support, Creative Australia.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Development of work















ABOUT THE STREET

Inquiry and Imagination

The Street Theatre is Canberra's creative powerhouse of inquiry, ideas and imagination, currently led by acclaimed stage director Caroline Stacey OAM. An award-winning home of live performance in the ACT and a major investor in new theatre, music work and artists in Canberra over the last decade. The Street commissions, develops, produces and presents live performance that help us talk to who we are and the world around us. The Street believes in the remarkable capacity of Canberra artists to speak to our time, and the need for them to be given creative space to make work of vision, ambition, and courage that talks to diverse audiences across Australia.

Just as Canberra is considered a petri-dish for new policies, ideas and cultural products within the broader national landscape, The Street serves a vital role as a key creative generator of new work and regenerator of place and community within the nation's political heart. The Street was the recipient of a 2020 Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award for outstanding achievement and is an ACT Government Arts Centre and an essential contributor to the well-being of residents in the ACT and artistic vibrancy in the region.

WWW.THESTREET.ORG.AU

THE STREET — THE GIRL WHO GLOWS

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Video

Craig Alexander

Photography

Creswick Collective

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We acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples as the Traditional Owners of the lands on which The Street Theatre stands and where we live and create. We recognise their continuing connection to land, waters, knowledge and culture, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.



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