



*Melinda Hetzel & Co.*

# FLY BY NIGHT

***Let a custom-built mobile app be your guide  
on this site-specific journey.***

*'One of the best art interactions I have ever experienced.'* – ARTS ON THE AU

2015 GREEN ROOM AWARD NOMINATION

# Media Release

## IMMERSE YOURSELF IN AN ALTERNATIVE REALITY THROUGH AN ENCHANTED JOURNEY OF HAMER HALL

Arts Centre Melbourne presents

### FLY BY NIGHT



Prepare to see **Hamer Hall** as you have never seen before in an immersive alternative reality adventure, **Fly By Night** premiering at **Nite Art 2015** on **Thursday July 23** and **Open House Melbourne** on **25 and 26 July**. Weaving together dance, physical theatre, sound design and video art, the site-specific work uses iPhone devices to deliver a surprising, promenade-style, self-guided tour via a purpose-built mobile application.

Designed with love and affection for Hamer Hall, the surprising and irreverent work was created by performance collective **Melinda Hetzel & Co**. Guided by a series of 'gamified' visual clues and site-derived imagery mirrored on the device, Fly By Night fuses 'real-time' and screen-based elements into a virtual theatre of images.

Participants will pick up an iPhone from the Hamer Hall foyer and take an enchanted journey through the building's secret passageways with a surprise around every corner, live roving performers and multimedia elements on the screen bringing the experience to life.

As they travel through 'real' space, participants take in dance, physical theatre, an original soundscore, sublime cinematography and interactive digital design via the screen of an iPhone. The work was inspired by Australian iconography, *Alice in Wonderland*, the history of the Hall and its inhabitants.



## Company Bios

Melinda Hetzel & Co. is a group of multi-talented artists who collaborate with director Melinda Hetzel to create extraordinary site-responsive art.

Building on Melinda's work as artistic director of visual theatre company, Peepshow Inc (2003-13), [Melinda Hetzel & Co](#)'s credits include: *Urban Cocoon* (Melbourne City Square, 2013) and *Fly By Night* (Nite Art/ Open House Melbourne, Arts Centre Melbourne- Hamer Hall, 2015).

### **Artistic Director - Melinda Hetzel**

Melinda Hetzel's extensive body of work features visually stunning, site-specific performance, participatory live art and dynamic, ensemble-based theatre.

Since graduating in Creative Arts (Victorian College of the Arts, 2000), Melinda has presented a wide range of work in Australia, as well as Singapore and Germany. In 2002 Melinda was invited to return to Germany to direct and devise an Australian-German co-production, *Einst zu einer Zeit...* which received the Arena Festival Audience Award, returning in 2005 as a jury member for the festival.

Melinda was founding member and Artistic Director of Peepshow Inc 2003-13. During this time she directed and co-devised the company's entire repertoire, including: *Slanting into the Void* (Arts House, 2006), *The Mysteries of the Convent* (Abbotsford Convent, 2006-08), *The Lost Story of the Magdalen Asylum*, (Abbotsford Convent, 2010) nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Site-specific Performance, *Divine: Part One* (Abbotsford Convent, 2011) nominated for a Green Room Award for Costume/ Set Design and *A Bird, a Tree, the Moon* (City Square, 2012). Melinda was also the interim Artistic Director/ CEO of St Martins Youth Arts Centre in 2012.

### **Jethro Woodward – Composer/ Sound Designer**

Jethro Woodward is a Melbourne-based composer, musician and sound designer recognized for his expansive and highly layered film, theatre and dance scores. A multi Green Room Award winner and nominee, he has worked with some of Australia's leading major and independent companies including MTC, Malthouse Theatre, Belvoir Company B, Arena, Windmill, MSO, Rawcus, Stuck Pigs Squealing, Fragment 31, Lucy Guerin, Australian Dance Theatre, KAGE and more. Jethro won Green Room Awards for *Moth* (Malthouse/ Arena), *Goodbye Vaudeville Charlie Mudd* (Malthouse/ Arena) and *Irony Is Not Enough* (Fragment 31). He was the Musical Director and Sound Designer for 6 x Helpmann nominated musical *Wizard of Oz* (Windmill). [jethrowoodward.com](http://jethrowoodward.com)

### **Steph O'Hara – Software Designer**

Steph O'Hara is an independent software developer, sound designer and musician. Steph has worked across the globe, engineering and producing music, audio, sound and software. Steph currently specialises in iPhone and Mac Audio development and Web-Audio Development. As a member of The Blue Grassy Knoll Steph has also performed extensively on the international circuit. He has worked for a multitude of theatre companies, studios and festivals, including: Sydney Opera House, Powerhouse theatre, St Kilda Festival, International Melbourne Comedy Festival, Adelaide Fringe, Adelaide Festival Centre, Melbourne Fringe Festival, 3PBS, Snuff Puppets, DeSoxy Theatre Company, Dead Horse Production, Chamber Made Opera, Ennio Morricone Experience, Peepshow Inc, Spaghetti Western Orchestra, Sista She, NICA, Ilbijerri, Polyglot and Flying Fruit Fly Circus. [soh.la](http://soh.la)

### **Nina Bonacci - Producer**

Nina is an arts producer, currently working with Stuck Pigs Squealing, ANGUS CERINI / DOUBLETAP, and Sisters Grimm, among other companies. Nina was Company Manager at Malthouse Theatre for several years, where she enjoyed working with some of Australia's finest artists. Prior to that she produced and toured contemporary Australian productions nationally and internationally while Associate Producer at Performing Lines. She has worked as a Producer at Melbourne International Comedy Festival; Festival Director for Mudfest – Melbourne University's student arts festival; Producer at Keep Breathing; Administration and Development Coordinator at Arena Theatre Company; Marketing Manager at St Martin's Youth Arts Centre; and as Publicist at Miranda Brown Publicity, with clients including Big Day Out, Chunky Move and Circus Oz. She was the Chair of visual theatre company Peepshow Inc, served on the Platform Youth Theatre Board of Management, participated on the Curatorial Committee for Next Wave Festival, and a member of the Peer Assessment Panel for the Sydney Opera House.

### **Rainbow Sweeny – Production Design/ Production Management**

Rainbow has worked across many areas of the arts and entertainment industry and has held senior positions in Production Design, Costume Design, Wardrobe Management, Event Co-ordination, Stage Management and Volunteer Co-ordination. Festival and Event management credits include projects for Melbourne International Arts Festival, the AFL Grand Final, Melbourne Grand Prix and such international festivals as Arena Festival (Germany) and the Edinburgh Festival. Screen credits include projects for Grundy Television, SBS Independent, Madman, Burberry Productions, Channel Ten Sport, Global Television and BBC (UK). In 2005 Rainbow was nominated for a Green Room Award for her set design for *Smashed* by Lally Katz. She was also a founding member of Peepshow Inc.

### **Dan Witton – Performer/ Collaborator**

Dan Witton has worked as an actor, physical performer, musician, composer, sound designer and web developer. Dan co-founded Desoxy Theatre in 1990 with Teresa Blake creating original performance projects that included works at major festivals, film and video, short pieces and independent seasons, touring extensively. Other companies that he has worked with include: Malthouse Theatre, State Opera of SA, Opera Australia, State Theatre Co SA, Australian Dance Theatre, Circus Oz, The Seymour Group, Etcetera Theatre Co, ABC Television, Belvoir St. Theatre, Playbox, The Mambologists, Magpie Theatre, Strange Fruit, The Blue Grassy Knoll, Cosmo Cosmolino, Not Yet Its Difficult, Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, The Urban Dream Capsule, Chamber Made Opera, David Chesworth/Wax Media, The Wikimen, the Ennio Morricone Experience, Jenny M. Thomas & The System, Tania Bosak and Jumpleads.

### **Ingrid Weisfelt – Performer/ Collaborator**

Ingrid Weisfelt is a director, choreographer and performer. Ingrid was a company member of 2 Dance Plus (1992-1993), Meryl Tankard's Australian Dance Theatre (1994-1997) and of TanzTheater Basel (1998-2002). As a freelance artist (2002-2013) Ingrid has performed with Kim Walker, Vincent Crowley, Joachim Schloemer, Vienna International Arts Festival, ChamberMade Opera, Kage Physical Theatre, Not Yet It's Difficult, Chunky Move, Force Majeure and Torque Show. She has worked as Movement Trainer for the opera *Massacre* at the Vienna International Festival (2002) and as Movement Director for *Crestfall* (director Ross Ganf) at the Red Stitch Actors Theatre (2005). In 2007 she was Choreographic Assistant and Movement Trainer for *Today in The Lumina Room* (director Vincent Crowley) for Schauspielhaus Koeln. In 2008 Ingrid was Assistant Director /Choreographer for *The Coronation Of Poppea* and in 2009 she was Choreographer for *Don Giovanna* and Associate Director/ Choreographer for *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, also for the Victorian Opera. As a founding member of Torque Show, she co-created *Malmö*, which she performed in at the Adelaide Festival, 2012. More recently she directed/ devised a new work for Torque Show called *Intimacy*.

# Media Quotes – Hetzel’s previous work

## **‘Fly By Night’**

Nite Art/ Open House Melbourne, Arts Centre Melbourne-Hamer Hall, 2015

*"I can honestly say this was one of the best art interactions I have ever experienced..."*

(Katelyn Rew, Arts on the AU)

## **‘A Bird, a Tree, the Moon’**

Melbourne City Square, 2012

*"A Bird, A Tree, The Moon did feel like a reclaiming of the commons... a reminder of a possible generosity. [...] What’s striking is the imaginative ingenuity of the puppetry, which is the simplest kind of transformative animation, the closest thing you get to magic in the theatre, and the physical precision of the performances. It’s comic, moving and utterly joyous."*

(Alison Croggon, Theatrenotes)

## **‘The Lost Story of the Magdalen Asylum’**

Melbourne Fringe Festival, Abbotsford Convent, 2010

*"Inventive and spooky, humorous and poetic... The show unites disciplines, from puppetry and acrobatics to narrative theatre and lighting installation. That director Melinda Hetzel can merge such disparate talents speaks volumes for her creative intelligence. The final scene is utterly miraculous... See it while you can."*

(The Age, Sept 2010)

*"Peepshow Inc are well known for evocative productions that engage the senses and The Lost Story of the Magdalen Asylum is undoubtedly a feast for them. The use of the spaces is brilliant... The design and effects are breathtaking..."*

(Simonne Michelle-Wells, Australian Stage Online)

## **‘The Mysteries of the Convent ‘08’**

Melbourne Fringe Festival, Abbotsford Convent, 2008

*"Mysteries of the Convent is one of those rare shows that will stay with you for days afterwards."*

(Zoe Marron, BEAT magazine)

## Media Quotes continued...

*“Peepshow Inc takes us out of the theatre into a world made theatrical. *Mysteries of the Convent '08* is gorgeous, delicate and inspiring.”*

(Anne-Marie Peard, Aussie Theatre online)

*“...a fine out-of-theatre experience”*

(Tim Richards, The Age)

*“Peepshow Inc are known for works that challenge and provoke whilst also entertaining and enchanting audiences with both the beautiful and the grotesque.”* (Jan Chandler, Australian Stage Online)

*“There were moments of sweeping beauty, one sequence with a revealed overhead projection that used water to effect it was transformative.”*

(Martyn Coutts)

*“This is simply one of the most exhilarating, magical and haunting theatre experiences I’ve had in a long time.”*

(Lisa Clark, thegroggysquirrel.com)

*“...the masterfully subtle control of attention exercised by... Peepshow Inc’s *The Mysteries of the Convent (2008)*...”*

(John Bailey, RealTime issue #89 Feb-March 2009 pg. 12)

### **‘Slanting into the Void – a puppet opera’**

Arts House, 2006

*“Slanting Into The Void is a visually stunning excursion into a surreal world of myth and transformation... It’s impossible to overstate how visually assured the production is... [The facets of theatre-making at work here] fuse under the direction of Melinda Hetzel to create an experience as magical as opening a music box, or watching a master illusionist in action.”*

(Cameron Woodhead, The Age, 2006)