

# ...@Pa@... Education Season 2025







Image credit Alex Vaughn



**Tuesday | 29 April**  
**10am & 1pm**

**A Monkey Baa Theatre Company production**

# **JOSEPHINE WANTS TO DANCE**

**Based on the book by Jackie French and  
Bruce Whatley | Adapted by Eva Di Cesare,  
Sandie Eldridge & Tim McGarry**







## **She's bold. She's bouncy. She's back!**

A hilarious musical about the importance of believing in yourself and realising your dreams and... a dancing kangaroo!

This delightful musical is a must see!

Josephine is a kangaroo who loves to dance. Her little brother, Joey, tells her kangaroos don't dance, they hop - but Josephine continues to point her toes and leap through the air. When a ballet troupe comes to the sleepy town of Shaggy Gully, Josephine desperately wants to dance like the ballerinas in pink tutus and silk ballet shoes.

On the day of the first performance the Ballet Company is in trouble. The prima ballerina twists her ankle and the understudy has a splinter in her toe. Who can dance the lead role? Josephine's talents are called upon to help save the day. Can she do it, and more importantly, does it matter that she's a kangaroo?

Adaptors Eva Di Cesare, Sandie Eldridge and Tim McGarry

Director Jonathan Biggins | Composer/Lyricist Phil Scott

Choreographer Tim Harbour

Set & Costume Designer James Browne

Lighting Designer Emma Lockhart-Wilson

Sound Designer David Bergman | Musical Director Michael Tyak



## AWARDS

Excellence in the Performing Arts – **2019 Glug Award**  
Best Production for Children – **2019 Sydney Theatre Award**

★★★★☆ *"A complete delight."*

**Jo Litson, Daily Telegraph**

*"If you have children to take, then, take them. If you don't, still go. Don't be shy. Just, go, go, go."*

**Kevin Jackson, Theatre Diaries**

*"Wonderfully whimsical and utterly inspiring...a must see for anyone with a sense of wonder."*

**Jade Kops, Broadway World**

**Tuesday | 29 April 2025**

**10am & 1pm**

**Tickets: School Groups \$15 per student**

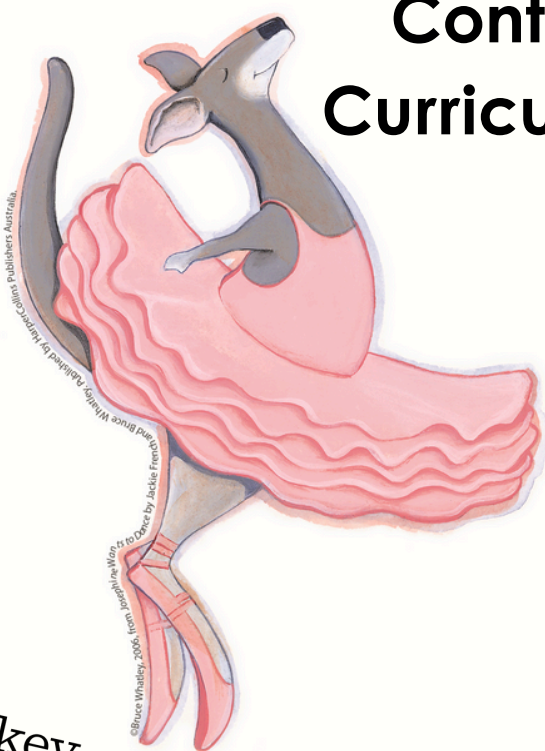
Ticket \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (12 years or under) \$16  
COPACC Members \$16

**Duration of show: 50 minutes (no interval)**

**Recommended age group: Ages 4-9 and their families**

**Content warnings: Theatrical haze**

**Curriculum Links: Available on request**



monkey  
baa  
theatre  
co.

ARA







ALISON LESTER  
IMAGINE

Imagine yourself living in the forest.  
A forest where the trees are all different heights and colors, and the animals are all different shapes and sizes. A forest where the sun is always shining and the water is always flowing. A forest where the sky is always blue and the ground is always green. A forest where the air is always fresh and the smell is always sweet. A forest where the world is always full of life and wonder. A forest where the only rule is to have fun. All the time.

AGINE

click



Produced by Jolyon James and NCM

# IMAGINE LIVE

by Jolyon James | based on the book 'Imagine' by  
Alison Lester

Thursday | 5 June  
10am & 1pm







Image credit Peter Foster Photography

**“It’s about animals!” ... “It’s about Imagination!”  
... “It’s about our Home!”**

**Spot a leopard, dive with a dolphin or dig up a dinosaur as this iconic book springs into life before your eyes.**

IMAGINE LIVE reminds us that creativity is a muscle that loves to be stretched; It not only lifts us up but holds us on the way down. We know that with the help of your imagination, creativity builds smart and resilient human beings, and we need them now more than ever.

IMAGINE LIVE challenges young audiences to dream themselves out into the world and see themselves as part of a vast connected space. The show transforms thoughts and ideas into exciting destinations where distance is only as far as the turning of a page and no matter how far you travel you will always be home.

Exploring themes around creativity and the natural world IMAGINE LIVE is an innovative, interactive and exciting show that will inspire audiences to see the world around them in new and surprising ways.





Image credit Peter Foster Photography

IMAGINE LIVE combines live action and animation, oscillating between Alison Lester's iconic natural environments and the playful home setting of the children. Underscored by beautiful original music, oversized props and digital puppets are skillfully brought to life by live performers.

Song and play link together a long-distance video call between a granddaughter and grandmother, enjoying a nostalgic connection through their favourite book, *Imagine*.

Beautiful and meaningful, IMAGINE LIVE is a celebration of the transformative power of creativity that will follow you home and live in your heart for years to come.







“We loved the singing, clapping, dancing and joining in, along with the jellyfish, the disco ball and the lights.”

“I loved that so much, can we come again?”

**- ES1 and Stage 1 students**

“It was honestly magical. A must see. Excelled anything I imagined it would be.” - **Sydlifeofus**

**Thursday | 5 June**

**10am & 1pm**

**Tickets: School Groups \$10 per student**

Ticket \$15 | Concession \$14 | Children (12 years or under) \$12

COPACC Members \$12

**Show duration:** 60 mins

**Recommended age group:** Ages 4-12 and their families

**Curriculum Links:** Available on request

Produced by Jolyon James and NCM, Co-produced by Geelong Arts Centre.

Associate Producer Riverside Theatres, Parramatta and Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Touring supported by Creative Victoria.

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.





Image credit Andi Crown



**Tuesday | 17 June**

**1pm & 5.30pm**

**YES YES YES**

**by Eleanor Bishop & Karin McCracken**







*“A profoundly moving and galvanising experience.”* **Theatreview**

**Jamie and Ari like each other.**

**Hannah and Tom do too. 😊**

They might be at two separate parties, but their stories are identical. Until they really aren't.

Part documentary, part confession, part open conversation, Yes, Yes, Yes is a theatre show created specifically for young adults exploring the knotty and necessary topics of healthy relationships, desire and consent.

Blending audience interaction with captivating solo performance, this work features in-depth interviews with a diverse range of teenagers.

Creators/writers: Eleanor Bishop & Karin McCracken  
Performance: Hannah Kelly | Direction Eleanor Bishop  
Lighting Design: Rachel Marlow for Filament 11  
Tour Producer: Fenn Gordon for Tandem



*"International research tells us the most effective way to support young people to have happy, healthy relationships is to talk about the good stuff - desire, attraction and most importantly consent, and what it looks like. Young people actually already have the skills, but they haven't always been taught to use them in sexual or romantic contexts."*

**Karin McCracken, co-creator of Yes Yes Yes**

*"I am thinking about my teenage self and how I wish there was a show like this around when I was younger. So today I am taking my 'teenage self' on a trip to the theatre."*

**Audience member**

*"One of the most relatable, raw portayals of how young people navigate consent."*

**Year 12 Student**

*"Painfully powerful exploration of sex, consent, and healthy relationships in modern times.....The crowd cracks up as these brilliant kids talk about crushes, sexual pressure, how to ask for a kiss, the fakeness of porn, and the importance of looking after themselves first. Colour me mindblown."*

**Dominion Post**

**Yes Yes Yes** is supported by **Creative New Zealand**.

Outstanding Performance Karin McCracken

**Wellington Theatre Awards**

Excellence in Theatre for Social Change

**Wellington Theatre Awards**

Excellence for Overall Production - **Auckland Theatre Awards**









**Tuesday, 17 June 2025**  
**1pm & 5.30pm**

**Tickets: School Groups \$15 per student**

Ticket \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (12 years or under) \$16  
COPACC Members \$16

**Duration of show:** 60 minutes (no interval) + 15mins post show forum

**Recommended age group:** 16+ (School groups); 14+ for public audiences (carer guidance recommended)

**Content warnings:** This show discusses sexual violence

**Education resources:** Available on request

E  
K  
M

B

**NCM**

ARTS COUNCIL  
NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA  




# The PAPER ESCAPER

by GITA BEZARD





**Tuesday | 29 July 2025**  
**10am & 1pm**

A Terrapin production  
**THE PAPER ESCAPER**  
by Gita Bezard



Image credit Darcie Richards



# The PAPER ESCAPER

by GITA BEZARD



Image credit Darcie Richards

**A bright new puppetry work from Terrapin about determination, friendship and the power of following your own path.**

Benny, the plucky puppet protagonist in *The Paper Escaper*, knows they are destined for greater things than a simple pop-up book. But in a world that's trying to squash Benny between its pages – from a wily dancing fire to a disillusioned illustrator – Benny will need the help of a new friend to achieve their dreams.

Written by Gita Bezard of *The Last Great Hunt*, this delightful, funny and inspiring production features inventive puppetry, deft physical performance and an intricate and engaging soundtrack.

Benny doesn't want to tell the story 'The Maker' has written for them. As their parents get nervous about the consequences of defying the 'The Maker', Benny rips themselves from his story. Alone and in an unknown land, Benny comes across a mysterious tentacle and friendship blooms. But 'The Maker' is determined and his fire is hungry – and Benny and their friend must work together to survive.



*“A beautifully crafted work written for the young and to be enjoyed by all ages. The adventure travels around the beautifully made set, which becomes the place of exploration, developing confidence, overcoming fears and finding friendship. In the unfolding paper world, there is danger, sacrifice and compassion.”*

**★★★★ ½ stars**

**ArtsHub, Lesley Graham, 2023**

*“An exemplar for how outrageously fun theatre can be.”*

**The Examiner (Launceston), Declan Durrant, 2023**

*“Absolutely fantastic. So professional, with great organisation and clarity in story and performance.”*

**Teacher, 2022 school tour**

*“Once again, it was a brilliant Terrapin performance. I (and the kids) never tire of the shows Terrapin puts on.”*

**Teacher, 2022 school tour**

*“We loved that there was no dialogue so we had to really tune in to non-verbal communication to interpret the story.”*

**Teacher, 2022 school tour**

*“Fantastic, engaging show :). My whole class was really engaged.”*

**Teacher, 2022 school tour**











Image credit Darcie Richards

**Tuesday, 29 July 2025**

**10am & 1pm**

**Tickets: School Groups \$15 per student**

Ticket \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (12 years or under) \$16

COPACC Members \$16

**Duration of show:** 45 minutes (no interval)

**Recommended age group:** Suitable for all ages

**Education resources:** Available on request

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body.

**Terrapin**



Tasmanian  
Government



ARTS  
ON  
TOUR







**Wednesday | 13 August**  
**10am & 1pm**

**VELVETEEN RABBIT**

**by Born in a Taxi**







## Lights! Cameras! Action!

**Set within a film shoot, layered with live projections, Physical Theatre Company *Born in a Taxi* thoughtfully and hilariously reimagines this 100-year-old children's story by Margery Williams. Please bring your own favourite snuggly toy to the show! This is a show where the toys are in charge on stage and your own special guest toy is a VIP.**

One of those rare stories that dare to tease out complex themes of love, loss and change in a way that allows children to connect with them, *Velveteen Rabbit* is about a toy rabbit who becomes real...but how did it happen?

In the hands of *Born in a Taxi*, the story is infused with dynamic audience participation, live and recorded music with live stream video and projections layered into the work that plays with multiple scales that reflect the perspective of a child.

Playful, visual and poetic.

**A must-see for families and anyone who has ever cherished a beloved toy!**



*“A beautiful children’s show with a strong message behind the story.”*

**Chantal Easy, Theatre Manager, Karralyka Theatre**

*“We cannot stop thinking about your wonderful performance yesterday. My three children have been acting out scenes from my son’s bottom bunk with their teddies since returning home.... an absolute highlight for our school holidays.*

*PS: we also can’t stop doing the lobster boy dance”*

**Lauren Maree, Audience member**

*“This is a beautiful, beautiful, beautiful piece of work”*

**Anne-Marie Peard, Smart Arts with Richard Watts  
on Triple RRR Radio**

*“Born in a Taxi 'holds the heart of this warm and tender tale in a mix of comedy, characters, personalities, theatrical forms and audience involvement without losing the simplicity and deep melancholy of its central character. Fiona Roake....holds the truth of the Rabbit in a way that never shies away from the vulnerability of the story's character, or its heartbreaking end.... a rollercoaster from funny and physical to deeply warm and tender with the skill of a three ring circus....”*

**Sue Giles President ASSITEJ (International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People)**

*“This version is told in [a] way that’s so loving and honest that its sadness is hopeful and positive”*

**Anne-Marie Peard, Sometimes Melbourne (website)**

*“My 4 year old was completely engrossed for the whole hour. Was a perfect first theatre experience.” - Audience Member*









**Wednesday, 13 August 2025**  
**10am & 1pm**

**Tickets: School Groups \$15 per student**

Ticket \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (12 years or under) \$16  
COPACC Members \$16

**Duration of show: 60 minutes (no interval)**

**Recommended age group: Ages 4+ and their families**

**Education resources: To come**

*Velveteen Rabbit* is created by Born in a Taxi, commissioned by Monash University Performing Arts Centre and supported by Creative Victoria.







**Tuesday | 19 August**  
**11am & 1pm**

# **BEETLE**

**by Legs On The Wall**







Image credit Carlita Sari

## **Even the smallest voices matter.**

An instant Australian classic, Beetle tells the story of a child who finds a friend in her backyard; together they embark on an adventure to search for his Family, the now elusive Christmas Beetle.

The magic of the bush habitat is brought to life through Legs On The Wall's trademark physical storytelling, and animation created from original artworks by beloved children's author and illustrator Freya Blackwood. A tale of resilience and hope, Beetle reminds young audiences that there's an important place in the world for all of us. Reminding us of the delicate balance of the natural world and that all things are connected.

This charming, nostalgic and uniquely Australian show invites children and families to join the adventure, encountering larger than life beetles, stick insects, and other bush critters while finding out about the uncanny nature and delicate balance of the bush environment.





Image credit Luke McLeod

*“One of my most loved childhood memories, in late November or early December, a very special sharing happened with my family. It didn't matter who saw it first but when we did we would bring our whole family together to look at this incredible seasonal event. The first Christmas beetle. Knowing more would come in the following weeks. I remember it stood as a symbol of Christmas, summer, water, heat, fun, family and friends. Now, even though my family are living all over Australia, we all still share if we see one. Unfortunately, we're seeing them less and less. Beetle is a story of hope; it reminds us of the importance of the smallest things; our responsibility to let it live on through different stories, every new summer.”*

**- Joshua Thomson, Co-Creator/Director**

*“A striking show which takes young viewers on an immersive journey into nature by fusing puppetry, physical theatre, circus, video projection, and set and costume design with seamless imagination.”* - ★★★★★ **The Scotsman**





Image credit Luke McLeod

**Tuesday, 19 August 2025**

**11am & 1pm**

**Tickets: School Groups \$15 per student**

Ticket \$20 | Concession \$18 | Children (12 years or under) \$16

COPACC Members \$16

**Duration of show:** 50 minutes (no interval)

**Recommended age group:** Ages 6-14 and their families

**Content warnings:** Flashing lights and haze

**Education resources:** To come

*BEETLE is commissioned by the North Australian Festival of Arts (NAFA) and The Art House - Wyong and was supported by Inner West Council. The 2025 tour has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body, and the NSW Government through Create NSW.*

**LEGS  
ON THE  
WALL**

**NAFA**  
**NORTH AUSTRALIAN  
FESTIVAL OF ARTS**

**THE ART HOUSE**

  
Australian Government

**Creative  
Australia**

  
**NSW  
GOVERNMENT**



**ARTS  
ON  
TOUR**

**INNER  
WEST**