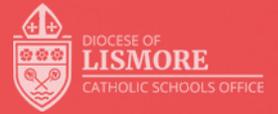




NORPA PRESENTS

A NORPA PRODUCTION



Created in partnership with the Catholic Schools Office – Lismore Diocese

Into The Forest



THU 10 & FRI 11 JUNE 2021

norpa

The Story

The Devil Dingo lives in the underworld — a forest with all the animals and plants that have ever existed. It's almost Summer Solstice on earth and Dingo has slipped through a crack and is roaming in the forest.

When Alice and her support worker Kate venture into the forest to visit a waterhole, get witchy and make fake spells — the shapeshifting Dingo is ready for them. By trickery and transformation, he manages to win Alice over, and lure her away from Kate.

An inferno rips through the eucalypts and the opportunistic Dingo leads Alice to a waterhole nearby where they take safety underwater. But the waterhole is not what it seems. After entering the black water, she emerges to find herself trapped in Dingo's underworld forest, forever, as his eternal companion.

While in the underworld, Alice makes use of her eons of time exploring the forest, becoming part of the natural landscape. After a few days, or maybe it's millennia, who knows, Alice is getting bored with Dingo's constant absence, and grossed out by his grizzly, blood dripping eating habits. With a growing desire to make sure Kate and her family are okay, Alice begins to dream of returning home. Dingo can't be convinced to let her go, so she slips out from under him in the night.

When Alice returns home through a crack in the earth, she finds the forest is no longer green and brown, but an expanse of burnt columns reaching up to the sky. A desperate Kate finds Alice in the forest and scoops her up.

One is left to wonder, what is real and what is magic?

Director's Notes

***Into The Forest* explores the forest as both a place of danger and of transformation. The work draws on classic and contemporary literature in which the forest is a key setting, a place that evokes the subconscious.**

The show has developed into an intimate performance that includes live sound design, movement, visual design, poetry, documentary style text, and blurred mix of truth and fiction.

At the centre of this work is the special relationship between Alice and Kate — as a window into the experience of people living with disability and their support workers. The show presents a personal and heightened depiction of this complex and deep relationship.

Into The Forest was made through an innovative partnership between NORPA and the Catholic Schools Office — Lismore Diocese. Our mission was to create a theatrical experience that engages teachers and students with the Stage 5 and 6 English and Drama syllabus. I'd like to thank the Catholic Schools Office for their ongoing trust and partnership, particularly throughout the last 18 months.

It has been a true joy and a privilege working with this creative team, in particular Kate and Alice. They are our protagonists and also our guides in the creative challenge of making a new and highly original theatre production. Thank you!

We hope this show offers everyone the chance to slow down and go deeper, and to venture into the forest with us.

Julian Louis

Creative Team

PERFORMER / DEVISOR

Alice Misty Boscheinen

WRITER / PERFORMER / DEVISOR

Kate McDowell

DIRECTOR / DEVISOR

Julian Louis

SOUND DESIGNER

Alexandra Spence

MOVEMENT CONSULTANT

Kimberley McIntyre

DESIGNER

Charlotte Haywood

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

Taya Solomon

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Richard Morrod

STAGE MANAGER & PROJECT TECHNICIAN

Steve Shaw

Creative Team



Alice Misty Boscheinen

PERFORMER / DEVISOR

Alice is an emerging dance artist and actor from Lismore. Alice performed with Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre in *O, How I Dreamt of Things Impossible* during its premiere season at NORPA in 2020. *Into The Forest* is her first co-devised work with NORPA. Alice has attended Back to Back Theatre (VIC) and Second Echo (TAS) for professional development and also trains with dancer Colleen Coy.



Kate McDowell

WRITER / PERFORMER / DEVISOR

Kate is a Writer & Performer based in Lennox Head, who collaborates with diverse artists at home and abroad. She holds an MFA from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). Kate is a NORPA Associate Artist and is Program Director for Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre. For NORPA Kate was Researcher and Story Developer for *Wildskin*, Assistant Director/Stage Manager for *Dreamland* and Design Assistant for *Journey To an Unnamed World*. In 2018 Kate's full-length site-based solo work *Wonderbabes* premiered with NORPA and the Lismore Quadrangle, supported by Lismore City Council and Southern Cross University and as a satellite event of the Byron Bay Writers Festival.



Julian Louis

DIRECTOR / DEVISOR

Julian is the Artistic Director and CEO of NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts) and lives and works on Bundjalung land. He is a graduate of NIDA's Directors' course, and holds a BA (Comm) in Theatre/Media from Charles Sturt University. For NORPA, Julian has devised and directed a number of site-specific productions including acclaimed productions of *Railway Wonderland* (2012, 2015) and *Dreamland* (2016, 2019,) theatre works *Journey to an Unnamed World* (2016), *Wildskin* (2018), *The Bloody Bride* (2008), *Not Like Beckett* (2007), and collaborative projects including *Cockfight* (2015) with The Farm and *The Robbers* (2019) with Dutch Company Meneer Monster, *13 Storey Treehouse* series, all touring extensively nationally and internationally.

Creative Team



Alexandra Spence

SOUND DESIGNER

Alexandra Spence is an artist and musician living on Gadigal Country in Sydney, Australia. She creates performances, compositions, and installations based on (everyday) sound and listening. Through her practice Alex reimagines the intricate relationships between the listener, the object, and the surrounding environment as a kind of communion or conversation. Her aesthetic favours field recordings, analog technologies and object interventions (she holds the belief that electricity might actually be magic).



Kimberley McIntyre

CHOREOGRAPHER

Kimberley McIntyre is an independent dance artist, teacher and performer living in regional NSW. She travelled to Berlin and Vienna, supported by Create NSW on a professional development grant in 2018. Kimberley has worked with NORPA on *Journey to an Unnamed World* (2016) and collaborates with other independent artists: VK Collective — creating site specific dance theatre *15 Ross Street* (2017), *Patterns* a group piece commissioned by The Quad, Lismore (2017). Kimberley teaches 'Curious Body', a dance methodology she has continued to develop since 2016 and is a co-founder of the MaKom Collective, currently developing their new work *Era* with the support of NORPA.



Charlotte Haywood

DESIGNER

Charlotte Haywood lives regionally in Northern NSW on Bundjalung Country. She is an experimental interdisciplinary artist working across the senses exploring themes and practices from pop to the primordial. She seeks cultural and linguistic nuances of the body and the landscape to decrypt and unfold multi-narratives. She creates works that thread disparate narratives of time, culture and place through the use of materiality, process, form and motif; from the botanical and historical to future nostalgia. Experimentally trading between the tactile and the digital, form and ephemera — she works across: textiles, sculpture, installation, experimental architecture, film, theatre, sound, food, linguistics, community and ecologies.

Creative Team



Taya Solomon

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

Taya Mikah is an emerging artist practising and living on Bundjalung Country — Northern NSW. She recently graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts majoring in Sculpture and Spatial Practice. She is an experimental artist whose interests lie in the breakdown and dismantling of the individual's complexity. She centres her thinking around forms of returning, revealing and reflecting with intention to provoke a moment of self-examination. She aspires to work in collaboration allowing the weave of culture, space and time to inform her makings. Her work is centered around her deep fascination for found material and movement — exploring spaces of installation, performance, clay, video work, costume and sculptural expressions.



Richard Morrod

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Extenuating the energy of live performance is what Rich does best. Whether it be with bands, theatre, dance or circus Rich is at home behind a lighting console. Trained as a dancer at the Victorian Academy of the Arts, Rich performed worldwide with companies such as Sydney Dance Company which shaped and styled his belief in the importance of the backstage arts.



Steve Shaw

STAGE MANAGER & PROJECT TECHNICIAN

Steve has a background as a live sound engineer and more than 20 years of experience in all aspects of live production for festivals, concerts, events, and theatre. Steve has worked with NORPA in various technical and production roles for more than 7 years and has also worked on local events and festivals including Mullum Music Festival, Bello Winter Music Festival and Woodford Folk Festival. For NORPA Steve has worked on *Railway Wonderland* (2015), *Dreamland* (2016, 2019) and *Djurra* (2017).

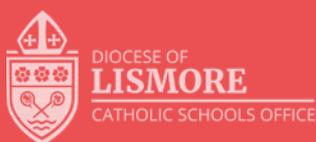
Acknowledgements

NORPA works in partnership with the Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Lismore (CSO), young people, educators and professional artists to develop targeted and relevant theatre that imaginatively engages students with the NSW syllabus.

NORPA is excited to be working with the CSO in 2021 to present two new shows for young audiences, one for primary, *The Underlibrary of Unofficial Histories*, and one for secondary schools, *Into The Forest*.

These projects continue the innovative partnership between CSO and NORPA that began in 2016 with the immersive theatre production *Journey to an Unnamed World*.

Our creative partnership has the exciting, shared focus of developing creative approaches to learning through new theatre forms and models of presentation.



Created in partnership with the Catholic Schools Office – Lismore Diocese

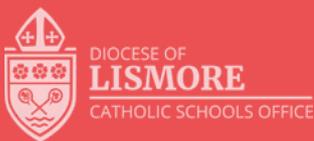
Acknowledgements

Thank you

Into the Forest would not have been possible without the contributions and support of Samantha Lynch, Katie Cooper-Wares, Kathy Cates, Frauke Huhn, Vanessa Kellas and Amy McDowell and students from St John's College Woodlawn.

About NORPA

NORPA is a company that makes theatre from the ground up. We take inspiration from the country and culture around us. Based in the Northern Rivers of NSW, we program and co-produce shows by leading national companies too, but creating original Australian work is at the heart of what we do and why we exist.



Created in partnership with the Catholic Schools Office – Lismore Diocese



Supporting Creative Communities



NORPA is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



NORPA is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.