



NORPA PRESENTS

A NORPA PRODUCTION



DIOCESE OF  
**LISMORE**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

Created in partnership with the Catholic  
Schools Office – Lismore Diocese

# Into The Forest



**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**

DESIGNER

**Charlotte Haywood**

WRITER / PERFORMER / DEVISOR

**Kate McDowell**

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

**Taya Solomon**

DIRECTOR / DEVISOR

**Julian Louis**

LIGHTING DESIGNER

**Richard Morrod**

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

**Noa Rotem**

STAGE MANAGER & PROJECT TECHNICIAN

**Steve Shaw**

SOUND DESIGNER

**Alexandra Spence**

PRODUCER

**Frauke Huhn**

PERFORMER/TECHNICAL SUPPORT

**Ash Cassel**

MOVEMENT CONSULTANT

**Kimberley McIntyre**

# 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. She holds an MFA from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). Kate is a NORPA Associate Artist and is Artistic Associate for Sprung! Dance Theatre. She recently directed the dance-theatre cabaret *French Cafe* for Sprung!, presented at Plunge Festival Grafton. 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



## Noa Rotem

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Noa Rotem is a performer, director and teacher based in the Northern NSW on Bundjalung Country. She has worked and trained extensively in Australia and overseas with companies such as The Human Theatre, The Danger Ensemble, Little Dove Theatre Art and Anne Bogart's SITI Company (NYC). She is a graduate of the Soma School of BodyMind Centering® (Paris), HaKvutzah School of Dance (Tel Aviv), the University of Sydney and the Actor's College. Noa's directing credits include *Medea* (Brisbane, 2019), *Life is elsewhere* (Hong Kong, 2015), *Maktub* (Hong Kong 2014), *The Odyssey* (Hong Kong, 2013), *Ninety-nine* (Hong Kong, 2012), *Chang Boils The Sea* (Hong Kong, 2011), *The Courage Project* (Hong Kong, 2010), *A Christmas Carol* (Hong Kong, 2009).



## Alexandra Spence

SOUND DESIGNER

Alexandra Spence is a sound artist and musician living on unceded Wangal land in Sydney, Australia. Through her practice Alex attempts to reimagine the intricate relationships between the listener, the object, and the surrounding environment as a kind of communion or conversation. Her aesthetic favours field recordings, analogue technologies and object interventions. Alex has presented her art and music in Australia, Asia, Europe, and North America including the Vancouver Art Gallery; BBC Radio; Ausland, Berlin; Radiophrenia, Glasgow; Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid; Sound Forms Festival, HK; MCA ARTBAR, Soft Centre, and Liveworks Festival, with Liquid Architecture.



## Kimberley McIntyre

CHOREOGRAPHER

Kimberley McIntyre is an independent dance maker & teacher living and working on Bungalung land, Northern NSW. She enjoys working to help productions find their unique moving choreographic flavour, collaborating recently with Sprung! Integrated Dance Theatre on *French Cafe* and NORPA's *Into the Forest*. In her own work Kimberley creates with MaKom Dance Collective, presenting *Era* in association with NORPA in 2021. She makes work with local musicians and dance artists: VK Collective with Viviane Frehner, 15 Ross Street, *Patterns* at The Quad in collaboration with Barry Hill and local dancers Phil Blackman & Colleen Coy. She travelled to Berlin & Vienna in 2019 with a professional development grant and teaches Curious Body as a weekly community class as well as running OMD, a creative ensemble of Old Men Dancing.

# Creative Team



**Charlotte Haywood**

DESIGNER

Charlotte Haywood lives regionally in Northern NSW on Bundjalung Country. She is an experimental interdisciplinary artist committed to seeking new depths of site-specific response and creative collaboration. She works across the senses responding to unique landscapes, communities and ecologies. Experimentally trading between the tactile and the digital, form and ephemera- she works across: film, theatre, sound, textiles, sculpture, installation, experimental architecture, linguistics and food. She has worked cross-culturally; interdisciplinary and collaboratively in remote Australia, Vanuatu, Thailand, Peru and Mexico.



**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.

# Creative Team



## 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).



## Frauke Huhn

PRODUCER

Frauke Huhn is a cross-disciplinary artist, social pedagogue and NORPA's Engagement Coordinator. She has trained and worked in Theatre, Science, Education and Social Arts for more than 20 years around the globe. She holds two M.As in Science and Education, a degree in Applied Theatre (Theater Pedagogy BuT) and is an accredited Secondary Teacher (NESA). All her work is aimed to educate, connect and empower.

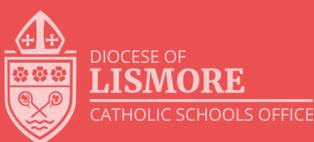
# Acknowledgements

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.



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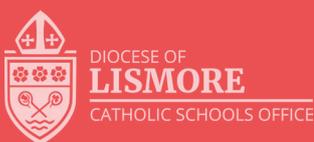
## Thank you

*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.

Thank you to our Education Partner Southern Cross University for your ongoing support and providing the Whitebrook Theatre for our rehearsals and Lismore performances.

## 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.



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Supporting Creative Communities



The 2022 Tour of *Into The Forest* is a Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund project through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

