

BRISBANE FESTIVAL

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY 28 JULY 2020

STIRRING STORIES AND SWEET SURPRISES REVEALED IN BRISBANE FESTIVAL'S FAMILY PROGRAM

Experience the wonderful, the wistful and the downright whimsical when Brisbane Festival's program of family-friendly events surprise and delight audiences of all ages from 4 – 26 September.

A spectrum of city-wide encounters and productions tap into both a rich seam of nostalgia and the promise of a hopeful future, and bring entertainment to the people while enticing them to get out and about and re-discover their own backyard.

Storytelling sits at the heart of the program with the world premiere of ***Wishful Bedtime Stories***; a project that captures the everyday places Brisbane children wished they could go during COVID-19 restrictions.

Talented local writers, actors and sound designers take illustrated submissions from the city's children and turn them into free bedtime stories released online at 6.30pm every Tuesday and Wednesday throughout the Festival.

Leading UK theatre company **Punchdrunk** have partnered with Brisbane's **Imaginary Theatre** as ***The Lost Lending Library*** appears at Brisbane Powerhouse from 19 – 26 September.

The magical multi-floored library is never the same experience twice and will be complemented by the debut of Imaginary Theatre's ***A Curious Arcade***, also at Brisbane Powerhouse from 19 – 26 September.

Visitors of all ages will be enchanted by the arcade's mysterious century-old mechanical storytelling machine revealing timeless tales that resonate today.

International superstars **Dead Puppet Society** return to their hometown and to Brisbane Festival to present ***The Creatures' Place***, an exclusive encounter with some prehistoric creatures for 8 to 12 year olds at Brisbane City Hall on Monday 21 September.

As part of this experience, children will be invited to bring their own creative creature to life.

South Bank is home to a giant and joyful ***Messengers of Brisbane*** installation by **Florentijn Hofman**, inspired by the native Gouldian finch, presented by Brisbane Festival and Tourism and Events Queensland.

Families can engage with the large-scale installation in a series of free ***Finchy Fun Workshops*** at Flowstate during the school holidays from 19 – 26 September.



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South Bank is also the battleground for **Common People Dance Eisteddfod 2**, a continuation of the no-holds-barred dance extravaganza that added sequined sparkle to Brisbane Festival in 2019.

Set to a killer '80s soundtrack, dance teams representing the city's north, south, east and west will again shimmy and shake – in a socially distanced way – for eisteddfod glory in the Grand Finale at South Bank Piazza on Saturday 19 September.

It's not just shiny trophies up for grabs with Brisbane residents rewarded for taking a run, a ride or a roll around the block in **Exercise Surprises**.

Some of Brisbane's best and brightest artists will materialise at whim on bikeways, walking paths and parks throughout the city for a series of surprise encounters throughout the Festival.

Be on the lookout for prehistoric puppets, playful lollipop ladies, flash mob cheer squads and acrobats flipping out and up.

Brisbane Festival Artistic Director **Louise Bezzina** said this year's family program shared stories that sprang from the first half of 2020 and captured the surprising highlights that emerged.

"A silver lining of the past few months has been a renewed sense of connection among families and communities and was something we wanted to reflect in this year's program," Ms Bezzina said.

"Home-schooling reignited our appreciation for learning and storytelling and showed us the wondrous ways we can discover the world, in the same way Wishful Bedtime Stories, The Lost Lending Library and A Curious Arcade do."

"A particular joy during lockdown was seeing suburban streets fill with parents and children riding their bikes, exploring their neighbourhood or walking the dog; outings we want to continue to encourage in Exercise Surprise."

Imaginary Theatre Artistic Director Thom Browning said *A Curious Arcade* and *Punchdrunk's The Lost Lending Library* were two very special and unique experiences.

"It is an imaginative leaping off point where the audience is both captivated and disorientated; a state of curiosity and wonder where they don't really know what to expect," Mr Browning said.

"We've created an incredible experience for adults and children alike with classic stories about intergenerational dynamics and what it means for adults and children to change the world."

The reimagined Brisbane Festival 2020 will be held from 4 to 26 September.



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For more information, including updates and announcements, visit brisbanefestival.com.au or follow Brisbane Festival on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

All Festival events comply with relevant COVID-safe plans and health authority directions.

ENDS

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Production details:

WISHFUL BEDTIME STORIES (FREE) – World Premiere

By Bridget Boyle

Location: Online

Dates: 8 – 23 September 2020

Performance times: Tuesday and Wednesday at 6.30pm

Tickets: FREE

More info: brisbanefestival.com.au

THE LOST LENDING LIBRARY

Presented by Brisbane Festival and Brisbane Powerhouse

By Punchdrunk and Imaginary Theatre

Location: Brisbane Powerhouse

Dates: 19 – 26 September 2020

Performance times: 10am – 5pm, sessions every hour

Tickets: \$40 per group + booking fee

More info: brisbanefestival.com.au

A CURIOUS ARCADE – World Premiere

Presented by Brisbane Festival and Brisbane Powerhouse

By Imaginary Theatre

Location: Brisbane Powerhouse

Dates: 15 – 26 September 2020

Performance times: 9am – 5pm

Tickets: Coin-operated

More info: brisbanefestival.com.au



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THE CREATURES' PLACE

Presented by Brisbane Festival and Brisbane City Council,
as part of the Lord Mayor's Children's Program
By Dead Puppet Society

Location: Brisbane City Hall

Dates: Monday 21 September 2020

Performance times: 11am, 12.30pm, 2.30pm

Tickets: FREE (bookings essential, not available at the door)

More info: brisbanefestival.com.au

FINCHY FUN WORKSHOPS

Part of *Messengers of Brisbane* presented by Brisbane Festival and Tourism and Events Queensland

Location: Flowstate, South Bank

Dates: 19 – 26 September 2020

Workshop Times: Saturday – Saturday, 10am – 1pm

Tickets: FREE

More info: brisbanefestival.com.au

COMMON PEOPLE DANCE EISTEDDFOD 2

By Common People Dance Project

Location: South Bank Piazza

Dates: Saturday 19 September 2020

Performance times: Doors 5.30pm, show 6.30pm

Tickets: \$25 + booking fee

More info: brisbanefestival.com.au

EXERCISE SURPRISES

Location: Various locations

Dates: 5 – 26 September 2020

Performance times: Thursday to Sunday

Tickets: FREE

More info: brisbanefestival.com.au



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