



Production Profile: Me and My Shadow

Company: Patch Theatre Company

Collaboratively created by: Zoë Barry, Dave Brown, Geoff Cobham, Roz Hervey, Nathan O'Keefe, Astrid Pill & Bob Weatherly

Performers: Sarah Brokensha, Emma Beech, Demelza Cadwallader, Tim Overton, Hew Pahram.

Composer: Zoe Barry

Lighting and Set Design: Geoff Cobham & Dave Brown

Direction: Roz Hervey, Dave Brown & Geoff Cobham

Production Management & Technical Construction: Bob Weatherly

Technical Support: Alex Mollison

Description: A gentle story depicting the fanciful escapades of a girl who finds a way to be friends with her shadow.

The Story: The ordinary world of children is transformed through play, often so vividly, that the “imagined” becomes “real” and possibilities become limitless.

The Form: *Me and My Shadow* is presented in the form of a visual poem for children. The show tells its story using the languages of paper, light, shadow, colour, water, music, sound and words. With fantastical imagery, quirky physical performances and an intriguing score, *Me and My Shadow*, seeks to ignite the imaginations of 4-8 year olds and beyond in a poetical experience that explores the frustrations and joys of friendship.

Reviews and Feedback

It's such a rich piece of work, it's hard to know where to begin with this Patch Theatre production, which had its young audience shrieking with delight. The visuals are astounding! **Review - Chris Hook, Daily Telegraph, Sydney**

"A feast for the eyes that reached straight, crystal clear to the heart of all ages in the audience." **David O'Brien - Db Review**

"A rich and creative exploration that glides effortlessly between truth and fantasy." **Peter Burdon, The Advertiser**

"Me and My Shadow is stunning image theatre integrating storytelling with beautiful stage pictures, magic and illusion." **Ursulla Beaumont - Lowdown Youth Arts Magazine**

"Patch Theatre conjures ephemeral beauty in paper and scissors, light and shadow. Profound truths are played out in haunting harmony." **Kate Deller-Evans, Independent Weekly**

"Me and My Shadow is sheer magic that has parents scratching their heads while the kids gasp with delight. The final scene is wonderful – a stage-wide panorama evoking beating hearts and friendship." **Peter Burdon, The Advertiser**

"Games and surprises and magic and heart bursting delight." **Dr. Anne Thompson, Director of the Drama Centre, Flinders University**

"Me and My Shadow offers such beauty to behold and magic to marvel at, the audience was nothing but engaged. Young audience members were transfixed. Their older counterparts were absorbed, sometimes chuckling, at other times brought to tears, particularly when the girl banished her imagination from playing with her." **Ursulla Beaumont - Lowdown Youth Arts Magazine**

Once again, Patch offers us a commanding and beautiful new work which we know our children, nephews and nieces, and grand children will enjoy from start to finish – a real winner. **Anthony Peluso – Executive Producer, Country Arts SA**

'Me and My Shadow' is a joyous, magical and engaging theatrical experience. In many ways it picks up aspects of form and style explored in 'Emily Loves to Bounce' and 'Special Delivery'. We see the return of simple and effective use of light and colour, red balloons, brown paper packages and minimal but well-chosen text. The backdrop of large rolls of white paper (so incredibly simple) wonderfully creates the world of the child. It provides a tremendous surface for shadow play, scale interaction, colour palette backdrops and most wonderfully a surface for water designs to be sprayed that leaves the audience gasping. Its theme exploration of the importance of imagination and imaginative play in a child's life is clearly rendered. **Noel Jordan - Youth Theatre Producer, Director and Consultant**

CONGRATULATIONS to you and Patch on a truly outstanding show. I thought Me and My Shadow was just so beautiful and engaging on a theatrical level; and genuinely one of the best children's theatre works I've seen. Good grief it had everything! It was

imaginative, magical, miraculous, moving and funny to boot and I just loved it. Pat Rix, Artistic Director Tutti Ensemble Inc..

"G'day. Today, my wife, daughter and myself had the pleasure of attending your performance of "Me and My Shadow" at the Forge Theatre. It was wonderful. My daughter was riveted to the whole performance and enjoyed all the magical aspects as well as the story and the effects. We always enjoy coming to your productions, but this was exceptional in our opinion, and the best we have seen (except maybe for "Special Delivery" which we also thoroughly enjoyed).

Maybe its because these two productions have a bit more to offer the adults, but my wife and I are just as entertained and touched by these stories, and we are impressed by the imaginative way that the stories are crafted and performed.

There are so many aspects that amazed me today that it would take too long to list them, but I will be boring my friends by describing them over and over for the next few weeks." Regards, Nigel, Linda and Olivia Mae

"Hello, Today I attended your production "Me & my Shadow" with my daughter's kindy and I just HAD to make contact to say CONGRATULATIONS!!!! The show was fabulous and a credit to all involved. I loved the simplicity and the complexity of it! Just magic!! I have already emailed my friends to recommend that they take their kids along. Thank you for offering such quality theatre for our young ones (and their parents)" Regards Evelyn Mavroudis

"I've just come home from the opening of "Me and My Shadow", and it was absolutely delightful. My experiences of Patch shows over the years have been universally enjoyable - each time I wonder how you could possibly produce yet another show that is fresh, creative, imaginative, beautiful, and completely engaging for children across a challenging age range, and yet each time you do!

My boys are six and nine at the moment, and I'm starting to get nervous that my days of having someone to come with me must be numbered - but thankfully they have assured me that they're not ready to stop coming any time soon." Regards, Chris Stocks.

*I just wanted to tell you how THRILLED we were to see **Me and My Shadow** yesterday - we were just blown away by the creativity of the performance. And above all, we loved the simplicity of the materials used in the performance. In this OTT world, it is magic to see that kids can still be transported by your clever creative spirit. I have told all my friends including the ones in Melbourne that Patch Theatre is BRILLIANT. Come back to Sydney ASAP! Elizabeth Young - Grandma of Eva aged 4*

On Saturday, 9th April, my 4 year old grandson watched, enthralled the show "Me and My Shadow". At the end of the show, he made it clear that he wanted to "say goodbye" to the performers. It took me a while to realise that his theatrical experience was so complete that he thought that the performance was just for him. He had reasoned that people who delighted him so much must be his friends so he wanted to say goodbye to his newly made friends and when they weren't there for him, he broke down and cried. Mal Manwaring

We are absolutely delighted with how the show has been received – it's a beautiful piece of work and we are very proud to be presenting it. Needless to say the company have been a delight to work with. **James Rongen-Hall – Producer, Sydney Opera House.**

