

*"all children are artists;
the challenge is to keep them so."*

Pablo Picasso



repertoire booklet
second edition



patch theatre company



Patch Theatre Company is based in Adelaide, South Australia and has presented 98 new works to more than 1.25 million children and their families locally, nationally and internationally since it began in 1972.



“What we remember from childhood we remember forever - permanent ghosts, stamped, inked, imprinted, eternally seen.” Cynthia Ozick



Patch has a repertoire of seven of its best works available for national and international touring.

This critically acclaimed repertoire of theatre productions for 4-8 year old children and their families has been carefully crafted over many years by artists dedicated to developing quality theatre for children.



foreword

Foreword from the Premier of South Australia



The trademark features of Patch's shows – elegance, simplicity and theatrical invention – are again evident in this latest repertoire booklet. It includes two brilliant new works – *Emily Loves to Bounce* and *Special Delivery*.

With colour and verve and professionalism, the Patch Theatre Company has been entertaining and engaging young South Australians and their families for 34 years.

Patch has also earned widespread national and overseas acclaim. Over the past four years, for example, the company has performed at 12 international children's festivals and regularly featured at some of Australia's most prestigious venues – including the Sydney Opera House, the Victorian Arts Centre and the Canberra Theatre Centre.

I invite you to enrich the lives of our children – and to share the joy and wonderment of theatre – through the superb work of Patch.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Rann".

Mike Rann
Premier of South Australia
Minister for the Arts



emily loves

Emily Loves to Bounce

to bounce

A performance inspired by the books of Stephen Michael King, collaboratively devised by the artistic team:

- Performers *Astrid Pill, Jon Bode, Belinda Gehlert, Zoe Barry*
- Directors *Dave Brown and Ingrid Voorendt*
- Set and Lighting Designer *Geoff Cobham*
- Illusionist *Greg Cousins*
- Musicians *Zoe Barry and Belinda Gehlert*
- Production Manager *Bob Weatherly*
- Technical Designer *Jardine*
- Provocateur *Lisa Philip-Harbutt*

Emily Loves to Bounce celebrates the creativity, imagination and exuberance of childhood through stories, images and illusions created from boxes and balls, beguilingly orchestrated by music, songs, games and dance.

“Emily Loves to Bounce is a most wonderful work, beautiful in its presentation, very carefully created and a continuation of Patch Theatre’s commitment to sparking the imagination of children and conjuring up wonderful images for young minds to enjoy.”

*David Whitney - Director,
Canberra Theatre Centre*

“Patch has created a marvellous, visual and aural world to explore some of the thoughts and feelings common to four to eight year olds. Friendship, difference, childhood and family are among the subjects dealt with...and the image of a box, the idea of breaking out of boxes, physically and mentally, is the central motif. A whimsical score of classical contemporary and folk music played live on a variety of instruments is a delight. Geoff Cobham’s simple meditative designs complement the gentle tone and unhurried pace that is so reminiscent of Philippe Genty. With plenty of humour and a packed house of children, laughter and wonder were entwined.”

Louise Nunn - Adelaide Advertiser

“Actors hop from box to box, singing, dancing, playing games, creating art and communicating the child-like wonder of play, creativity and imagination.”

Matt Byrne - Messenger Press





“Emily Loves to Bounce’ is a masterstroke of ingenuity - a beautiful blend of sound, mime and illusion.

It is intriguing, mystical, funny and irresistible.

Thoroughly absorbing.”

Andy Ahrens - Adelaide Theatre Guide



Best Visual Theatre 2005
Advertiser Oscars Awards



“One of the most magical, imaginative and entertaining shows of the Adelaide Fringe... this innovative, par-excellence piece of children’s theatre is truly one out of the box.”

Matt Byrne - Sunday Mail

**Adelaide Fringe 2006
YEP Award Nomination**

**Adelaide Fringe Award for Innovation
and Excellence Nomination**



special delivery

Special Delivery

- Writers *Greg Cousins & Jane Leicester*
- Performers *Eddie White & Emily Hunt*
- Foley Artist *Catherine Oates*
- Director *Dave Brown*
- Illusionists *Greg Cousins & Jane Leicester*
- Designer *Benzo*
- Composer *Catherine Oates*
- Lighting Designer *Dave Green*
- Production Manager and Set Builder *Bob Weatherly*
- Box Engineer *Barry Magazinovic*
- Costumier *Sarah Kent*
- Video Maker *Will Sheridan*

Special Delivery is a comic fable about a deliveryman, who is lured out of the busy-ness of his everyday world, back into the mysteries and possibilities of childhood play and imagination.

"I'm thankful that my kids are growing up on Patch. Consistently astute choices in form and content, combined with excellent production values, demonstrate time and again a sound understanding of who they're reaching and how to connect with them. This is world class theatre for young children."

Laurie Webb - Lowdown National Youth Arts Magazine

"A stream of consciousness, visual theatre work, perfectly pitched at its 4-8 year old target group...delightfully mischievous...beautifully performed...the children were engrossed."

Louise Nunn – Advertiser Newspaper

"A peppy visual theatre work for 4-8 year olds in the vein of Philippe Genty... A plethora of sound and visual gags create a wacky world of play. The children love it."

David O'Brien – Guardian Messenger Newspaper



pigs, bears and billy goats gruff

Pigs, Bears and Billy Goats Gruff



“Everything is of the highest calibre of professionalism and sophistication.”

Samela Harris, The Advertiser

“Pigs, Bears and Billy Goats Gruff’ from Patch Theatre is the company at their consummate best. The peals of laughter and cries of delight are proof that this group of dedicated artists truly know their audience. Familiar stories are made new as the actors transform ordinary kitchen implements into extraordinary elements of play. The 2005 season at Sydney Opera House was a 100% sell out success and deservedly so. This production is a timeless classic that genuinely celebrates the notions of play and imagination that are the cornerstone of Patch Theatre Company’s ethos.”

Noel Jordan, Producer - Young Audiences, Sydney Opera House

This evocative mix of design, live music, dance and storytelling gives rise to surprising, humorous and vivid adaptations of classical favourites - The Three Pigs, The Three Billy Goats Gruff and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

“A well-crafted production, full of humour, music and riotous enjoyment.”

*Suzette Watkins -
Director, Alice Springs
Cultural Precinct*

“The respect that the performers show the audience is repeated manifestly in the response from the audience to the performance.”

*David Whitney -
Director, Canberra Theatre Centre*

- Performers *Jacqy Phillips, Stephen Sheehan, Astrid Pill or Eileen Darley, Stuart Day or Belinda Gehlert*
- Director *Dave Brown*
- Musical Director *Stuart Day*
- Choreographer *Jenn Havelberg*
- Designer *Dean Hills*
- Lighting Designer *David Green*
- Production Manager *Bob Weatherly*





“Outstanding quality...The production reflects theatre crafted for young people with the utmost understanding of early childhood development...and features accomplished artists of the highest calibre.”

Emma Dykes – Marketing Manager, Canberra Theatre Centre



mr mcgee

Mr McGee and the Biting Flea



- Writer *Pamela Allen*
- Performers *David Pidd, Paul Blackwell or Cameron Goodall, Astrid Pill or Johanna Allen*
- Director *Dave Brown*
- Composer/Musical Director *Timothy Sexton*
- Designer *Dean Hills*
- Lighting Designer *Dave Green*
- Production Manager *Bob Weatherly*

Six whimsical stories by award winning children's writer, Pamela Allen, are presented in this surprising, charming, funny and frenetic production. The stories emerge from dozens of suitcases and crates as three curious warehouse workers transform a storeroom into enchanting little miracles of music and play.

"The songs work, the stories unfold effortlessly and Pamela Allen's chiming cadence has its hypnotic effect...the performers have a packed house in their thrall."
Murray Bramwell - Adelaide Review

"Our little folk were bouncing and squirming in their seats with delight...musically hypnotic and cheeky right to the end!"

Philip Norman, Education Manager,
Performances, Victorian
Arts Centre

"Fast-paced inventive theatre – cows appear out of sliding doorways, balloons become heads, and ducks float up in wells as no imagination is spared...this show will be another national bestseller!" *Matt Byrne - Sunday Mail*

"Beautifully performed... 'Mr McGee and the Biting Flea' wistfully evokes an innocent, handmade and literally playful era of storytelling and song that contrasts with our own age of electronic nannying via TV and DVD. ...near perfect..."
Colin Rose - Sydney Herald Sun

"The set is a huge luggage room with trunks and cases towering on shelves – and the boxes and crates, ladders and trolleys of that world become the props which furnish the assorted stories – there are plenty of clever little special effects which surprise and delight – the children left the theatre as a happy rabble and the season is a sellout."
Samela Harris - The Advertiser





“If you have children, you should definitely see this show. If you don’t have children, borrow some. You’ll love the show and they will love you for taking them.”

Simon Slade – Adelaide Theatre Guide

*“A strikingly original
piece - part black-theatre,
part play, part opera....
a symphony of excellence.”*

Samela Harris - The Advertiser



who sank the boat?

Who Sank the Boat?

- Writer *Pamela Allen*
- Performers *Paul Blackwell, David Pidd or Cameron Goodall, Eileen Darley or Bronwen James, Heather Frahn or Belinda Gehlert, Kerry Reid or Billie-Joe Van Dam or Vanessa Ellis*
- Director *Dave Brown*
- Composer/Musical Director
Timothy Sexton
- Designer *Dean Hills*
- Lighting Designer *David Green*
- Puppeteer and Choreographer
Vanessa Ellis
- Production Manager *Bob Weatherly*



Eight beautifully rendered stories from multi-award-winning children's writer Pamela Allen are presented using a host of inventive theatrics including puppetry, black-theatre, operetta, mime, song and dance.

"African drumming, wooden flutes, a cappella harmonies, puppets, dance, movement and simple narration brought the stories to life... Wonderfully crafted and directed, this is the kind of theatre all children should see."

*Vanessa McCausland,
Sydney Daily Telegraph*

"A theatre piece with real charm and imagination."

*Murray Bramwell,
The Adelaide Review*

"Best Physical and Visual Theatre 2001"

Helpmann Award Nomination

"An extraordinarily, inventive and enchanting show."

*Lenny Ann Low,
Sydney Morning Herald*



*“Fast paced,
thoughtful,
outrageous &
contagious
good fun!”*

Matt Byrne, Messenger Press





sharon keep ya hair on!

Sharon, Keep Ya Hair On!

- Writers *Gillian Rubinstein and David Mackintosh*
- Performers *Catherine Oates, Libby O'Donovan, Astrid Pill, Ian Moorhead and Paul Jardine or James Sweeney*
- Understudy *Mel McCabe*
- Director *Dave Brown*
- Composers *Catherine Oates, Sam Lohs and Mel Watson*
- Designers *Gaëlle Mellis and Geoff Cobham*
- Lighting Designer *Geoff Cobham*
- Technical Designer *Jardine*
- Production Manager *Bob Weatherly*

This funky, funny, wild and wacky trilogy of stories about adapting to change is presented as a concert-narrative featuring a mix of interactivity, music, song, live video projection, children's art and structured play. The audience becomes involved in the performance as would a live studio television audience; they see the show and become part of it.

"Hats off to a Huge Hit. Take some stunning musical talent and the tales of a top children's writer, mix freely with a liberal splash of technical expertise and thus do we have kid's theatre a la rock band. And what a dazzling show it is!"
Samela Harris, The Advertiser

"There have been only a few times in many years that I've become so rapt in a show for children. Those kids will live with this performance for a long time."

Philip Rolfe - Executive Producer, Sydney Opera House

"It is a show unlike anything you've ever seen (it being not quite rock concert, story telling, nor straight theatre but a combination of all three) and like all Patch shows, is marked by its artistic integrity and its respect for young audiences."

Eleanor Clark - Youth Arts Producer, Sydney Opera House

"Keep Ya Hair On! contains a lovely sense of anarchy in its free-flowing combination of character, song, projected imagery, and real-time TV interviews...a hard act to follow!"

Philip Norman - Education Program Manager, Victorian Arts Centre

the boy *The Boy and the Bamboo Flute* and the bamboo flute

- Writer *Ta Duy Binh*
- Composer *Dang Thao Nguyen*
- Performers *Tevi Fanning, Ta Duy Binh or James Edwards*
- Director *Dave Brown*
- Designer *Lisa Philip-Harbutt*
- Choreographer *Jenn Havelberg*
- Production Manager *Bob Weatherly*

This internationally acclaimed production is inspired by the folklore and cultural traditions of Vietnam.

Drama, martial arts, mime, music and dance meld in this epic adventure story about a peasant boy and a princess, who together overcome the destructive power of evil with the aid of a bamboo flute.

The production has more than 350 performances to its credit with seasons at international children's festivals in Singapore, Korea, Japan, Seattle, St Paul/Minneapolis, Calgary, Vancouver, Mississauga, London as well as appearances at the Awesome Festival, Perth; Out of the Box Festival, Brisbane; Come Out Festival, Adelaide and Capital E! Theatre, Wellington, New Zealand.



“Captivatingly, beautiful.”

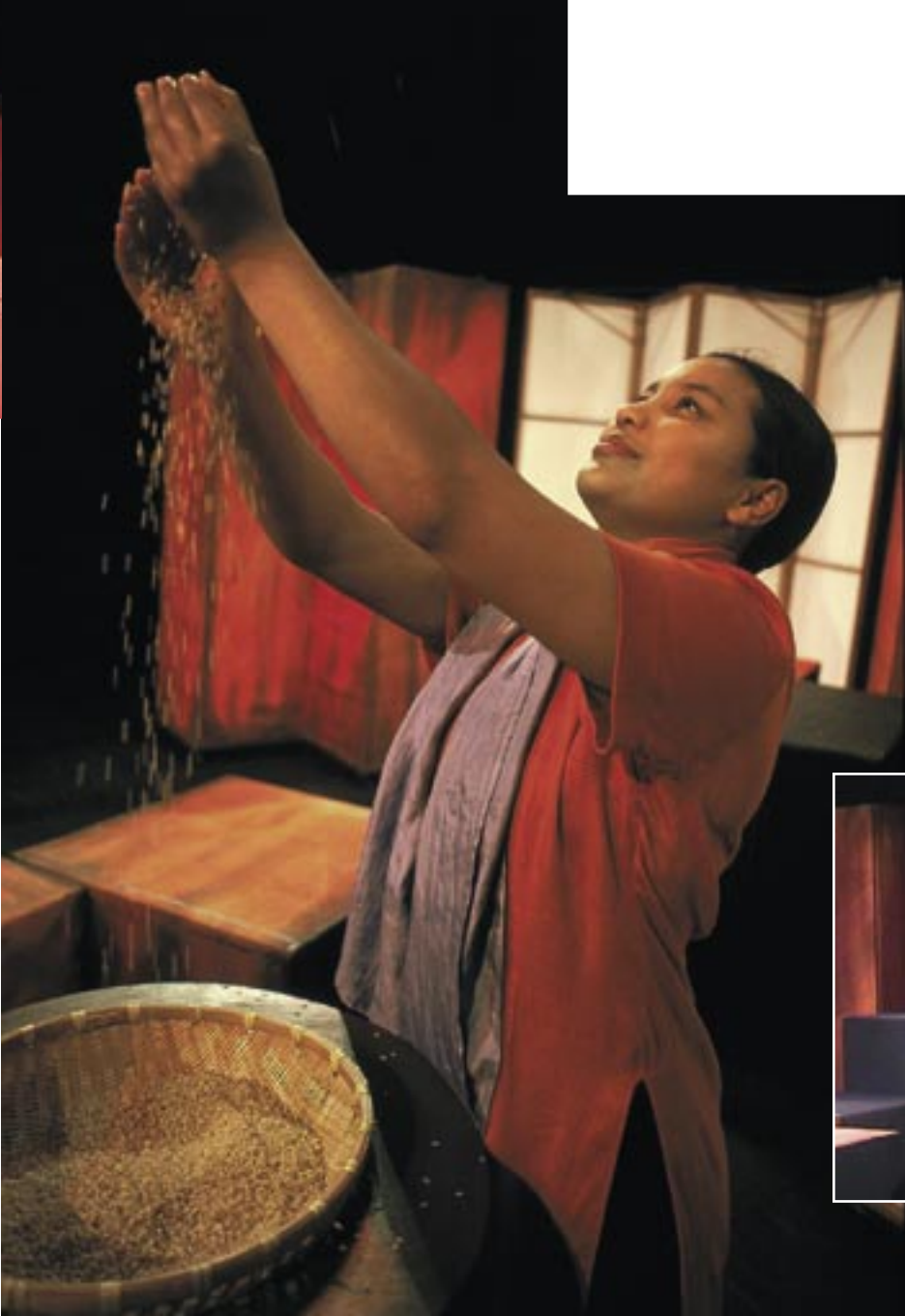
*Lisa Wilson,
The Calgary Sun*

“In a class of its own!”

*Glenda Pennington
Artistic Director, London
International Children's Festival*

“An exceptionally moving tale.”

*Lindy Sisson
Artistic Director,
Vancouver International
Children's Festival*



*“A charming
story,
beautifully
told...a
highlight
of our 2002
festival.”*

*JoAnne James - Producer,
Calgary International
Children's Festival*



Positive minds attract.

Mental health is being able to feel positive about yourself and others. It's also about getting involved and being part of your community. A positive mind attracts friends and finds more to enjoy. It takes work, but so do all good things.

find out more at
www.headroom.net.au





patron - Gillian Rubinstein

Sturt Street Community

School is South Australia's first school dedicated to the care and education of children from birth to eight years of age. Patch shares a unique partnership with the school, which enables our artistic work to grow out of on-going research with children and early childhood educators, which is grounded by a keen philosophical and practical exploration of the relationship between the performing arts and early childhood development

Patch Theatre Company is

assisted by the South Australian Government through ArtsSA, the South Australian Youth Arts Board and the Commonwealth Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body. Regional, national and international touring is supported by Country Arts SA, ArtsSA, Playing Australia and Playing the World.

The Board of Patch

Theatre Company

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- *Bookings Coordinator*
Helen Rose
- *Marketing and Admin*
Coordinator Amy Dowd

*“Man is most
nearly himself
when he
achieves the
seriousness of
a child at play.”*

Heraclitus



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