



PATCH **REPertoire**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Patch Theatre acknowledges that we work, create and play on Kurna Yerta, the traditional lands of the Kurna people.

We respect their spiritual connection with their country and acknowledge the Kurna people as the Custodians of the Adelaide plains and surrounding regions.

We acknowledge cultural and heritage beliefs are still important to the living Kurna people today and pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Always was, always will be,
Aboriginal land.

Artwork for *Sea of Light* created by Elizabeth Close
Cover image: *Wonderverse*. Photo: Matt Byrne

WELCOME TO PATCH

Founded on Kurna Yerta, South Australia in 1972, Patch Theatre creates visually captivating performances for children aged 4–8 years. Exploring how children see the world, Patch actively places children at the centre of the performance promoting imagination, wonder and discovery. Our works celebrate big ideas and explore some of the world's inexplicable questions from a child's point of view.

Each year, we provide inspirational, design-rich theatre experiences to over 50,000 children and their families. We have produced 120 unique works, won countless awards and presented performances across Australia and the globe, capturing the imaginations of children worldwide.

For many of our young audiences, a Patch performance is their very first encounter with art. We carry that responsibility seriously and we want that first moment to be extraordinary.



Our tagline “Putting children at the centre of art” means intimacy, agency and a hands-on relationship with the work. It means building emotional narratives from visual ideas and ensuring children feel safe in a connected and tactile way.

We involve children throughout the development phase of all our shows — after all they are the experts in play! Their involvement shapes an adventure designed especially for and by them, and allows them to create meaning in their own individual ways.

“Oh I see, you’re not the show, WE are the show!” Child

The Patch Team and Pippa. Photo: Morgan Sette

Our three program streams — installation, in-theatre and in-school — tell you what the works are and where they are performed. Our shows come in many scales — from a 20-student classroom experience to a performance to 800 children in a main stage theatre.

In our repertoire, we now have 4 interactive installation shows — *Wonderverse*, *Superluminal*, *The Lighthouse* and *Sea of Light*; 3 in-theatre shows — *ZOOM*, *Me & My Shadow* and *I Wish...*; and 2 in-school shows — *Glow & Tell* and *It’s a String Thing*.

We are also developing a new interactive performance called *Glow Nations: Where the Birds Go*, an exploration of human migration told through the metaphor of birds.

We provide tailored and engaging Education Resources, Visual Stories (specifically designed to support children with sensory sensitivities), Presenter Kits including technical specifications, and high quality marketing materials to accompany each of our shows.

Through our work, we tour high-quality theatre experiences, collaborate with educators, engage diverse communities — particularly those facing disadvantage, employ and engage an inclusive workforce, and build international partnerships that foster cultural exchange.

We design experiences that nurture imagination, confidence and connection, inspiring children to return to creativity and joy again and again.



The Lighthouse. Photo: Yewei Chen
Courtesy of National Taichung Theatre

OUR REPERTOIRE



INSTALLATION

Immersive works inviting small groups to engage in interactive experiences in unexpected locations

<i>Wonderverse</i>	6
<i>Superluminal</i>	8
<i>The Lighthouse</i>	10
<i>Sea of Light</i>	12



IN-THEATRE

Captivating live performances presented on stage to large audiences

<i>ZOOOM</i>	14
<i>Me & My Shadow</i>	16
<i>I Wish...</i>	18



IN-SCHOOL

Our SPARK program: up close performances presented in school classrooms and community venues

<i>Glow & Tell</i>	20
<i>It's a String Thing</i>	22



IN DEVELOPMENT

New work being created in collaboration with artists, makers, creatives and, of course, children

<i>Glow Nations: Where the Birds Go</i>	24
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WONDERVERSE

Big universe. Small humans. Infinite wonder.

An immersive world powered by music and light.

In *Wonderverse*, children help shape a universe of light — then step inside it. From travelling through a tunnel of flickering fireflies to dancing in a glowing forest, they discover the vastness of the cosmos one small step at a time.

Experience breathtaking lighting by Geoff Cobham, discover epic tunes by Elisha Umuhuri from DEM MOB and, best of all, be part of the action. Adventure awaits in this sensational experience.

Commissioned by the University of Adelaide for their 150th anniversary celebrations in 2024, *Wonderverse* was created in collaboration with the Children's University and artists from the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) at the Elder Conservatorium.

INSTALLATION

“That was magic... it’s like we daydreamed together.” Child

“If you are looking for a show that will ignite your child’s imagination and leave them dreaming about the stars, *Wonderverse* is a must see.”

Kiddo Mag

Photo: Morgan Sette

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Zoë Barry, Michelle ‘Maddog’ Delaney, Elisha Umuhuri, Edgell Junior Edgell, Alex Hatchard, Darian Tregenza



SUPERLUMINAL

A journey of lanterns, creatures and curious minds.

A glowing expedition through nature and time where children discover, invent and become.

Superluminal invites children to become scientists, adventurers and creators. With lanterns in hand, they follow hidden animal tracks, meet extraordinary creatures and discover the magic of time itself.

Guided by performers, children bring their own mythical animals to life, give them voice and watch their shadows dance across glowing walls.

Superluminal is an experiment in wonder, a journey where science, play and imagination collide.



INSTALLATION

“*Superluminal* is all kinds of magical.”

Parent

“Patch Theatre has once again demonstrated their talent for creating visually stunning and engaging experiences that resonate with their audience.”

Kiddo Mag

Photo: Claudio Raschella

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Zoë Barry, Michelle ‘Maddog’ Delaney, Elisabeth Blomberg, Jimmy Dodd, Bianka Kennedy, Wendy Todd, Luku Kuku, Cedric Varcoe, Alex Hatchard, Darian Tregenza



THE LIGHTHOUSE

Where light reveals its secrets.

Science meets spectacle in a grand palace of light.

Artistic Director Geoff Cobham's love letter to light, *The Lighthouse* is part installation, part scientific quest, part rave.

Children are guided through a series of interconnected rooms each filled with hands-on encounters exploring a different property of the elusive yet fundamental force of nature that is light. Amongst towers of radiance and halls of glowing colour, shadows come to life, light bends and dances, and imagination becomes architecture.

Blending theatrical design with scientific curiosity, *The Lighthouse* invites children and families to experiment with reflection, colour, perspective and sound. The result is a joyful conversation between art and science — monumental, playful and endlessly possible.



INSTALLATION

“Both young and old will be awestruck at the amount of visual WOW moments the show has to offer.”

Kiddo Mag

“Full of surprises and invitations to play. An amazing magical feast for the senses!” Parent

Photo: Mark Gambino

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Zoë Barry, Daisy Brown, Michelle ‘Maddog’ Delaney, Jason Sweeney, Chris Petridis, Alex Hatchard, Meg Wilson, Renate Henschke, Wendy Todd, Jimmy Dodd, Marty McBubble, Clara Grant



SEA OF LIGHT

Paint a voyage in light.

An ocean of glowing stories to draw and navigate.

Embark on a journey of light and imagination and dive into *Sea of Light*.

Using a UV torch as their paintbrush, participants create their own voyage across the sea floor, painting glowing trails and steering ships that leave shimmering paths in their wake.

Throughout the installation, artworks by contemporary Aboriginal visual artist Elizabeth Close appear in light across the floor. These works speak to connections between land, sea, the earth and waterways and reflect the diversity of the Australian landscape.

With a gentle soundscape by composer Rob Edwards, *Sea of Light* offers a calm and creative experience for the whole family.



INSTALLATION

“I want to live in here forever.” Child

“Even the youngest children can enjoy creating, and adults will have a ball as well.” Play & Go

Photo: Matt Byrne

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Michelle ‘Maddog’ Delaney, Rob Edwards, Elizabeth Close, Wendy Todd, James Dodd



RUBY
AWARD
2021



INDEPENDENT
ARTS FOUNDATION
AWARD 2019



ZOOOM

A lost star finds its way home.

A cosmic adventure powered by music, lasers and imagination.

Unable to sleep, a child sets off on an imaginary adventure through the universe.

With original music, lasers and projections, *ZOOOM* invites the audience to help a lost star find its way home.

Inspired by the iconic children's book *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, the performance celebrates the philosophy of a child's ability to make sense of their world through art.

Before arriving, audiences are invited to bring "a piece of dark" to the theatre. Upon arrival, their dark is exchanged for their own personal light, a small beacon to guide and keep them safe through the performance

Captivating and heartfelt, *ZOOOM* explores the magic of dreams and the power of imagination.



IN-THEATRE

"This is awesome!"

Child

"Just loved it, very high quality and extremely engaging. The children could not take their eyes off the stage." Teacher

Photo: Matt Byrne

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Dave Brown, Roz Hervey, Temeka Lawlor, Angus Leighton, Jason Sweeney, Michelle 'Maddog' Delaney, Chris Petridis, Alex Hatchard, Luku Kuku



ME & MY SHADOW

The magical story of making friends with your shadow.

An inquisitive dance between light, shadow and friendship.

Children love to play with shadows, but making friends with your shadow can be a tricky business.

There are problems to solve, adventures to have and laughter to be shared.

Me & My Shadow is a visual poem for children, brought to life through light, colour and physical performance.

With fantastical imagery and a mischievous score, this beloved work gently explores the trials and joys of friendship while igniting children's imaginations.



IN-THEATRE

“The performance was mesmerising! Imaginative and playful which connected with children and adults alike.” Teacher

“It’s quirky, physical and charming children’s theatre at its absolute finest.”

Kiddo Mag

Photo: Matt Byrne

Creative Team Dave Brown, Roz Hervey, Zoë Barry, Geoff Cobham, Bob Weatherly, Nathan O’Keefe, Astrid Pill



I WISH...

An acrobatic adventure exploring all the things we could be.

Gravity-defying circus meets theatrical wonder.

Created in collaboration with acclaimed circus company Gravity & Other Myths, *I Wish...* celebrates imagination, individuality and all the things we could be.

People are made of stuff — funny stuff, curious stuff, brave stuff, extraordinary stuff, joyful stuff. We're all made of different stuff, and all of it is good stuff.

Through dazzling acrobatics, colourful visuals and playful humour, performers transform themselves again and again, from astronauts to unicorns and everything in between.

Joyful, energetic and surprising, *I Wish...* celebrates the magic of discovering who you are.



IN-THEATRE

“A masterful piece of theatre that uses colour and movement to communicate the complex world of emotions to young audiences.”

Australian Stage

“My two kids LOVED this... almost as much as I did! Highly recommend.” Parent

Photo: Daniel Boud

Creative Team Darcy Grant, Geoff Cobham, Luke Smiles, Will Spartalis, Michelle ‘Maddog’ Delaney, Alexander Hatchard, Renate Henschke, Luku Kuku, Lisa Goldsworthy, Zoë Dunwoodie, Wakara Gondarra, Simon McClure



GLOW & TELL

Stories that glow in the dark.

A classroom transformed into a world of glowing stories.

Glow & Tell places children at the centre of a magical storytelling experience.

Using UV light inside a custom-built tent, the classroom becomes an up close performance space where glowing drawings appear across the walls and floor as stories unfold.

Following the performance, children are invited to tell their own stories using UV torches to create and draw.

Each story is created and performed by one of our artists: Edgell Junior Edgell (Ni-Vanuatu), Evyenía Stefanidis (Greek-Australian) and Ayden Martin (Narungga/Arrernte).

Through light, storytelling and creativity, *Glow & Tell* celebrates culture, family and the power of imagination.



IN-SCHOOL

“I wish we could have it here everyday!” Child

“Our students loved the tent and the feeling of being so close to what was happening.” Teacher

Photo: Tony Lewis

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Michelle ‘Maddog’ Delaney, Kerry Reid, Edgell Junior Edgell, Evyenía Stefanidis, Ayden Martin



IT'S A STRING THING

One piece of string. Endless stories.

A box of things becomes a story of strings.

A performer arrives carrying a mysterious box. From inside emerges an ever-changing string — soft, bumpy, squishy, stretchy and full of surprises.

As the string grows and transforms, it becomes a playful guide weaving absurd, abstract and wildly imaginative stories that children help shape.

Performed to one class at a time, the show offers an up close experience where every child can engage in their own way.

A companion picture book remains in the classroom alongside creative activities that extend the experience long after the performance ends.



IN-SCHOOL

“Instead of watching the show we were actually IN the show!”

Child

“Passing the string gave children with additional needs a tactile way to engage with the story.”

Teacher

Photo: Andrew Beveridge

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Michelle ‘Maddog’ Delaney, Ellen Steele, Natascha Shaw, Rachel Harris



GLOW NATIONS: WHERE THE BIRDS GO

Let your imagination take flight.

A glowing gathering inspired by the journeys of birds.

Beneath a luminous cloud and beside a shimmering lake of light, children explore movement, sound and storytelling in an installation shaped by the journeys of birds.

Glow Nations celebrates migration, belonging and the beauty of the places we call home. This performer-led experience blends light, music and imagination, inviting young audiences to gather and create a story together — celebrating belonging and connection, like birds returning home after a long journey.

Created with First Nations and culturally diverse artists including Cedric Varcoe (Ramindjeri/Ngarrindjeri), Elisha Umuhuri (DEM MOB, Pukatja/APY Lands), Edgell Junior Edgell (Ni-Vanuatu), Dylan Miller (Arrernte), Ayden Martin (Narungga/Arrernte) and Evyenía Stefanidis (Greek-Australian). Developed in consultation with education and biological science experts from Adelaide University whose research into bird migration and behaviour underpins the science and storytelling at the heart of this work.



IN DEVELOPMENT

**PREMIERE SEASON
2027**

Image: Elissa Marks

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Zoë Barry, Michelle 'Maddog' Delaney, Cedric Varcoe, Elisha Umuhuri, Edgell Junior Edgell, Evyenía Stefanidis, Dylan Miller, Ayden Martin



ONCE WERE SEEDS

A conversation with the forest.

Every tree was once a seed. Every seed has a story.

When everything is unknown and anything is still possible, *Once Were Seeds* considers the promise of something not yet realised.

Pull-switches hanging from trees invite audiences to trigger shifting sequences of light, colour, sound and movement. Smoke, mist, beams of light and birdsong reveal the hidden and mysterious life of trees.

This playful interaction expands in scope and scale, giving children a sense of agency as they explore the many ways a tree might see, hear and feel the world around it.

Accompanied by Writer/Performer Tessa Leon, whose poetry threads through the space alongside live guitar, *Once Were Seeds* becomes a living meditation on growth, memory and the quiet intelligence held within us all.



IN DEVELOPMENT

**PREMIERE SEASON
2027**

Photo: Patch Theatre

Creative Team Geoff Cobham, Michelle 'Maddog' Delaney, Tessa Leon, Adam Whiting, Eloise Holoubek, Alex Hatchard, Chris Petridis

OUR PEOPLE

PATCH STAFF

Artistic Director Geoff Cobham

Creative Producer Sasha Zahra

General Manager Penny Camens

Creative Associate Michelle 'Maddog' Delaney

Marketing & Communications Manager Hannah Neophytou

Producer Jana Drummond

Education Program Manager Jaecinta Peddie

Development Consultant Belinda Hellyer

Associate Director Zoë Barry

Finance Services Leeanne Gale

Publicist Anthea Hagar

PATCH BOARD

Chair Sam Haren

Deputy Chair Reena Costello

Treasurer Mitchell Cramey

Liz Hawkins

Deborah Hughes

Dearna Newchurch



I Wish... on tour. Photo: Darcy Grant
All information correct at time of print



patchtheatre.org.au

