

Presented by Arts House

ROOMAN

Fleur Elise Noble

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Image: John Feely

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7.30pm, Tue 21 Nov
7.30pm, Wed 22 Nov
7.30pm, Thu 23 Nov
7:30pm, Fri 24 Nov
3pm, 7.30pm, Sat 25 Nov
3pm, Sun 26 Nov
70 mins

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artshouse.com.au

Creative Team

Creator & Director:

Fleur Elise Noble

Projected Characters:

Fleur Elise Noble & Rooman Manroo

Designer, Projection Artist & Puppet Maker:

Fleur Elise Noble

Sound Design:

Missi Mel Pesa

Production Operator & Stage Manager:

Niccolo Gallio

Contributing Performers:

Fleur Elise Noble & Daniel Fels

Contributing Composers & Musicians:

Zaachariaha Fielding, Sarah Reid, Tim Bennett,
Peter Knight, Mal Webb, Missi Mel Pesa (AKA Melbient)
& Opiuo

Time-Lapse Photography:

Simon Carroll

Drawer & Animators:

Fleur Elise Noble, Tim Bennet & Isobel Knowles

Costume Creators:

Bryony Anderson, Kasia Tons & Sara Yael/Lily Castel

Producer:

Insite Arts

Contributing Dancers:

Fleur Elise Noble, Daniel Fels, Sarah Reid, Jack Ladd,
Tina Torabi, Helen Smith, Alana Hoggart, Adam Forbes,
Tim Bennett, Ruby Ladd, Clare McDonald, Tom Carlyon,
Gabrielle New, Pierre Proske, Tony Martin, Mish Birch,
Jack Tuathail, Jonathan Van Dujin, Matthijis Bill
Rietveld, Falco Ara Macao, Marlin-Jack Melis, Emelia
Bickerdike, Roy Chang & Yollana Shore

Artist Statement

ROOMAN's light-hearted beginnings grew from a desire to create a show about 'following your dreams'. I met Rooman (a half-man-half-kangaroo) in a dream. I then followed him into the desert for three months. This journey seeded the beginnings of the *ROOMAN* story.

ROOMAN is a very real story about falling in love with a fantasy. It's a heart-warming, heart-breaking, visual-musical extravaganza about following your dreams and seeing what kind of a journey that can take you on. It's about love, about life. It's about losing everything and having no choice but to start again.

And why do I feel it is important to give these ideas a voice? Because these are common experiences that many people have to deal with at some point in their lives, often on their own. Quietly, ashamedly, people back away into the shadows and grapple with their demons. Some find light, some find support, but many don't know how to carry on.

ROOMAN is about arriving at a place where one must face an ultimatum - to give up, or to wake up. It is an honest (though metaphorical) depiction of one person's deepest vulnerabilities. It is an intensely personal and universal story.

I dream that this work will reach a wide audience and inspire meaningful dialogue around how one might endeavour to feel less alone in a time of need.

— *Fleur Elise Noble*



Fleur Elise Noble
Concept/Director & Maker

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Fleur Elise Noble is a director, maker and performer. She works with the mediums of drawing, painting, sculpture, puppetry, costume, set design, animation, film, editing, projection, performance and dance to create art works, animated films and visual performances. *ROOMAN* is her second major production, and like her first (*2-Dimensional Life of Her*), the story and physical material that she uses to tell it has been developed and refined over about five years.

Fleur has a background in visual arts, physical theatre and community work. She studied on full scholarships at art schools in Adelaide (Adelaide Central School of Art) and New York (New York Studio School). In 2008 she was a directing intern with Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre, after which she went on to perform in a number of dance/physical theatre productions. Over the years, Fleur has worked with many arts, theatre and multimedia professionals and has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards for her work.

Her most renowned work to date is her visual performance *2-Dimensional Life of Her*, which was invited to perform at over 40 venues and festivals around the world, including; The 2012 London Mime festival at The Barbican, the 2013 Under The Radar Festival at The Public Theatre in New York, as well as in LA, Brazil, Iran, South Korea and extensively throughout Europe, Australia and New Zealand. In 2011 *2D Life of Her* was selected to represent Australia at the World Congress of Theatre for Young People. In 2010 Fleur won the Green Room Award for Video Design, and in 2013 she was awarded a prestigious Bessie (New York Dance and Theatre Award) for most Outstanding Visual Design.

Fleur also works as a workshop leader and media producer on the Sharing Stories Foundation's Digital Storytelling Workshops- facilitating drawing, animation, film-making and projection projects with elders and young people in remote indigenous communities. Her ongoing relationship with indigenous peoples and their stories has deeply inspired her own practice.

In 2013 Fleur received an Arts SA Triennial Project Grant for the development of *ROOMAN*. The process of creating this work has involved collaborating with numerous musicians such as Sarah Reid, Zaachariaha Fielding, Tim Bennett, Peter Knight, Mal Webb and Missi Mel Pesa to develop the music/soundscape for *ROOMAN*. Over the years she has recruited a number of highly skilled dancers to perform in aspects of the production, along with with artists/costume designers such as Bryony Anderson (the mother of Rooman!), Sara Yael and Kasia Tons. Tim Bennett and Isobel Knowles also came on board to help create some magic in the animation department. Many others have contributed and supported the development of this project over the years.

This will be the first dance musical extravaganza in Fleur's repertoire of creations.

Missi Mel Pesa

Sound Design

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Fleur and I met through the Sharing Stories Foundation, creating new media sound design and animations collaboratively with children from remote Indigenous communities. We both loved working with the energy and raw talent of the children, and thrived on the organic nature of the work. Fleur and I discovered that we shared a unique creative chemistry as artists, which made it only natural for us to work together on *ROOMAN*.

My arts practice blurs the lines between cinematic sound design and musical composition by amplifying and experimenting with sounds I collect from nature. For *ROOMAN*, I collected sounds encountered through my work in remote Australian Country, creating an intimate and immersive ecology of place through sound design.

I am a Croatian-born Australian artist with a background in music composition and sound design for film, and once spent a year in Japan as a piano bar entertainer. I hold a Masters of Orchestration for Film and Television from the Berklee School of Music and a Graduate Diploma in Sound from the AFTRS. In 2014 I received a WIFT NSW Screen Music Mentorship Award through APRA.

I have music releases under the name *Melbient* through the label Arrival Sounds.

Thank You



A special thank you to all those who have helped make this possible:

Daniel Fels, Ruby Ladd, Kasia Tons, John Feely, Jack Ladd, Lucy Scott, Tina Torabi, Benjamin Hobbs, Adriana Navarro, Peter Stafford, Keez Duyvez, Lauchlan Teltlow-Stewart, Graham and Judy Rees, George the Man, Arts QLD, WOMADelaide, Coopers Malthouse Theatre, Mel Cantwell/Perth Theatre Company, Windmill Theatre, Arts House & Jason Cross at InsiteArts.

ROOMAN is supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory board; Arts SA, Arts Queensland, Windmill Theatre Company and The Coopers Malthouse.

Arts House, as a key program of the City of Melbourne, is Melbourne's contemporary centre for performance and interactive artforms. We support new and diverse ways to make and experience art which is participatory and experiential, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary, curated through a balance of provocation, responsiveness and collaboration with artists and audiences.

For more information, please contact us on the details below.

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Bookings:
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Arts House acknowledges the traditional land upon which we are located, of the Wurundjeri and Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and pay our respect to Elders both past and present and, through them, to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Government of South Australia
Arts SA

