

ARTS HOUSE PRESENTS

OF THE CAUSES OF WONDERFUL THINGS

TALYA RUBIN



ARTS HOUSE

ARTS HOUSE
MEAT MARKET

THU 11 - SAT 13
AUGUST, 2011

CAST AND CREATIVE

Writer/Deviser/Performer:
Talya Rubin
Co-Deviser/Director: Nick James
Sound Designer: Hayley Forward
Lighting Designer: Richard Vabre
Dramaturge: Campion Decent
Visual Design and Concept:
Talya Rubin

tooclosetothesun.tumblr.com

Too Close to the Sun is an independent theatre company devoted to the creation of devised solo work for live performance and committed to making revelatory, inventive work about what is alive, hidden and urgent. Originally founded in Melbourne, Australia, in 2004, Too Close to the Sun roved to Montreal, Canada, and is now based in Sydney. The name refers both to the heat in Australia and the myth of Icarus.

Of the Causes of Wonderful Things has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body.

Warnings: Themes and subject matter suitable for children over the age of 13, at parents' discretion.

Image: Heidrun Löhr

ARTS HOUSE

 CITY OF
MELBOURNE

 Australian Government

 of
the AUSTRALIA COUNCIL
for the ARTS

CITY OF SYDNEY 



 SERIALSPACE

 THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

OF THE CAUSES OF WONDERFUL THINGS

Of the Causes of Wonderful Things is an intimate and intricate new solo work that explores what happens when five children disappear from a small town in the American South. Immersed in a noir and atmospheric world, this 'limited audience' work implicates the viewer as witness to the darkness that unfolds around them. This other-worldly work is a deeply human, darkly beautiful and visionary piece, which examines the redemptive power of confronting darkness.

BIOGRAPHIES

Talya Rubin

Writer/Deviser/Performer/
Visual Design and Concept

Talya Rubin is a Montreal-born, Sydney-based writer, performer and deviser of solo work for live performance. She has toured with her original solo plays, *Ariadne's Thread*, *The Girl With No Hands* and *Of the Causes of Wonderful Things* to festivals across Australia and around the world, including LiveWorks at Performance Space, Brisbane Festival's Under the Radar, Toronto's new writing festival Summerworks, and two seasons at Centaur Theatre, Montreal. The ABC commissioned her to adapt and perform *Ariadne's Thread* as a radio drama, broadcast nationwide. *The Girl With No Hands* was named one of the 'outstanding performances' of the Summerworks festival by NOW magazine, Toronto, and nominated for a Montreal English Critics Circle Award (MECCA) for best new text.

As a poet, Talya Rubin won the National Canadian Bronwen Wallace Award for poetry for the most promising writer under the age of 35. Most recently, she was short-listed for the Winston Collins/Descant Prize for best Canadian poem of 2011.

Nick James, Co-Deviser/Director

Nick James is a writer and film director whose short films have been screened at festivals in Poland, the Netherlands, Germany, Romania, the USA, Chile, Argentina, Canada, Adelaide and Melbourne. He has been awarded two travel grants - one from the Australian Film Commission and one from Film Victoria - to represent his films at the Stuttgart Film Winter Festival for Expanded Media and the Castro Theatre as part of the San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. He is a founding member of Too Close to the Sun.

Hayley Forward, Sound Designer

Hayley Forward is a sound designer, engineer and artist. Currently based in Sydney, she is one half of a collaboration with Jess Olivieri and the Parachutes for Ladies, creating works from humming choirs to self-help audio guides, large-scale pseudo-musicals, and video installations. Their most recent work *I thought a musical was being made* was commissioned by and seen at the 2010 Next Wave festival. Exhibited nationally and internationally, Hayley Forward's works include *Dance of Death* (Tiny Stadiums, 2010) and *Small States* (Artspace, 2009 Helen Lempriere Travelling Arts Scholarship). Her sound design in theatre earned a Green Room Award nomination for Ignite Productions' *Jet of Blood* (2006). Other theatre productions include *The Bee* (MoFuCoSu, 2007), *3 Short Absurd Works* (Ignite Productions, 2008), *A View of Concrete* (M-PowerYouth productions, 2008) and *Arrivals and Departures* (St Martins Youth Theatre, Signal, 2009). In addition, she mixes at various festivals around Australia.

Richard Vabre, Lighting Designer

Award-winning lighting designer Richard Vabre has worked on countless productions, with companies including Malthouse Theatre, Red Stitch, Arena Theatre, Theatre Tarquin, Here Productions, Seduction Opera, Stuck Pigs Squealing, Melbourne Workers Theatre, rawcus, Union House Theatre, Aphids, Platform Youth Theatre, MTC, Windmill Theatre, fortyfivedownstairs, Victorian Opera, NICA, Polyglot Theatre, Chamber Made Opera and

Dancehouse. Green Room Awards include the John Truscott Prize for Excellence in Design (2004) and Outstanding Lighting Design in a Fringe or Independent Production (2005; *Smashed*, *Test Pattern*, *The Black Swan of Trespass*), as well as several nominations. Fringe Festival Awards include Excellence in Lighting Design (1998, 2000).

Campion Decent, Dramaturge

Campion Decent has worked in the arts for 20 years, most recently as Artistic Director of HotHouse Theatre (2007-10). As a dramaturge he has worked with writers including Jane Bodie, Rosalba Clemente, Wesley Enoch, Kate Mulvany and Bojana Novakovic. His own work as a writer includes the award-winning *Embers* (HotHouse/Sydney Theatre Company), *Shootings* (ABC Radio), *Baby X* (Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras/CDP/Playbox), and *Three Winters Green* (Mardi Gras). He has been Literary Manager at STC (2003, 2007), Artistic Director of Next Wave festival (2000) and Festival Director for Mardi Gras (1994-95). He is currently Chair of the Australian Script Centre. He is a graduate of the NIDA Playwrights' Studio and holds a BCA from the University of Wollongong and an MA (Theatre Studies) from the University of NSW.

ARTS HOUSE

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Arts House is a City of Melbourne contemporary arts initiative. Each year Arts House presents a curated program of contemporary art featuring performances, exhibitions, live art, installations and cultural events.

Arts House operates as a multi-dimensional resource hub for artists: producing, programming, devising, supporting and funding. Work is presented across two sites: Arts House, North Melbourne Town Hall and Arts House, Meat Market.

Arts House values arts and culture that help create a world where people are actively engaged, aware and empowered to participate, politically and culturally, to make positive change.