# **Space and Place**





A Made In Natimuk Production with Jillian Pearce, Dave Jones, Mary French, & Greg Pritchard

## Core creative team:

Performance Direction	Jillian Pearce – Y Space
Animation Direction	Dave Jones - Transience
Shadow Puppetry Direction	Mary French
Conceptual/Shadow Sculpture	Greg Pritchard
Artist	
Dramaturgy	Verity Higgins
Creative Producers	Made In Natimuk
Aerial/Rigging team	Abby Watkins, Bec Hopkins, Nati
	Access Company.
Composer and Sound Design	Russell Goldsmith
Sound System Design	Outlook Communications
Lighting Design	Tom Willis

#### **Contacts:**

Verity Higgins Made In Natimuk Producer Mobile | 0429 951 561 Email| producer@madeinnatimuk.com

Media Charee Smith Mobile | 0408 811 459 Email | chareesmith1970@gmail.com

#### **Short Copy:**

A Space and Place project is a unique and epic experience. From the co-creation process through to the stunning performance outcome, this large scale site specific community engagement project has storytelling at its core. Each show unique to the host community involves the interweaving of aerial performance, interactive animation projections, massed choir and music, shadow puppetry and sculpture; all played out on the iconic structure of the local community.

## **Medium Copy:**

Sometimes beautiful, sometimes comic, sometimes dramatic: Space and Place is a collection of poetic and epic images that explore a community's unique relationship to land, space and what gives them their sense of place.

Aerial antics, interactive animation, massed choir, live/recorded music, visual art, shadow puppets and sculpture are some of the potential elements that interweave their magic in a unique epic performance event played out on the host communities local iconic structure. The stunning visual language of Space and Place becomes a tool for the host community/artists to tell their stories in a co-creating partnership with the Made In Natimuk team.

# Long Copy:

Over 18 years of working together in a variety of collaborative combinations, the Space and Place team have developed a unique visual language that involves interactive animation and projections, aerial performance, live shadow play and puppetry, music (mass choir/opera/orchestra), community performance and storytelling.

From this, the Made in Natimuk artists have developed a rich ethos of community co-creation. This unique language is offered to the community to tell their stories on their iconic structure to their audience - a visual poem woven together to create new meanings, new memories, and invite new ways of seeing and understanding through a collage of expression both literal and abstract.

What started as an expression of a desire to make large scale performance turned into a great example of how such projects can engage communities, leading to social cohesion, and a heightened sense of pride of place. In the process, we worked out that we were good at, and enjoyed, the public engagement part of these projects.

The Space and Place model allows the host community to shape their local performance by working with the Space and Place team and their own local artists to provide local stories and expertise to develop the content.

Varying scales of residency and performance allow for a greater variety of touring reach of this pioneering project. What is toured is the language and the expertise...Each show is site and community specific.

# Space and Place Partnerships and Process:

The Traditional Owners on whose country the host community is built would formally invite the Space and Place team to their Country and through doing so become one of the essential partners in the co-creation process.

The Host Festival/Local Government form a key partnership relationship in facilitating the entry process to the community.

Local artists and producers are identified and professionally engaged to become part of the collaborative co-creation and skill sharing process.

Key Community organisations, schools, clubs etc participate in the making/performing of this major performance event through sharing/exploring their endeavours, interests and stories.

The Space and Place/Made In Natimuk team would bring the conceptual framework and the visual language for this to happen, the artistic personnel for collaborative workshops and the production management involved in mounting a major community arts project of varying scales.

# Historical Context to Space and Place:

2003 Space and Place was first developed by a team of Natimuk based artists, all working in different mediums to present on the Natimuk Silos for the Natimuk Frinj Festival in 2003. Creative team included Jillian Pearce and aerial performance of Y Space, animation of Dave Jones from Transience, shadow puppetry of Mary French, shadow sculpture of Greg Pritchard, Indigenous dance company Wallup Mara with Visual Art of Werrimul Art Collective, Mass music and choir of Santha Press, Lighting Design of Marko Respondek and Sound System of Outlook Communications. This production involved over 150 local people in Australia's first interactive animation/aerial/shadow Silo Art performance event.

**2004** Space and Place was then recommissioned for "Meeting Place", the 2004 Regional Arts Australia Conference hosted by Regional Arts Victoria in Horsham, Victoria.

**2006** Space and Place presented as part of the 2006 Commonwealth Games Cultural Program and co-hosted by Latrobe City to create the spectacular Latrobe Space and Place production with 300 performers on a coal dredger near Morwell, Victoria. This performance was on the Country of the Gunaikurnai people who were a major partner in the production.

**2008** Y Space along with Theatre Arts Export has then toured this language to Hong Kong to open the Elements shopping complex on an unfinished high rise building in Kowloon in 2008.

**2011** Dave Jones and Transience further developed "Highly Strung utilising the aerial and ground based operation of a special designed 15 m puppet interacting with animation/projection developed with local school children.

**2017** Dusk was presented for the Natimuk Frinj Festival as an exploration of a new format that changes each night to reflect the day that was at the host festival. The festival and it's audience co-create a performance that changes each evening to reflect their experience of their day at their Festival on their iconic structure. Dusk becomes a tool for the host festival to co-create with their audience to produce a spectacular series of performances co owned by all those who accept the invitation to participate.

**2018** Poppet Bendigo - a major aerial, projection, shadow, sound and light performance centred on the iconic poppet head in Rosalind Park. This new incarnation of Space and Place was one of the Regional Centre of Culture commissions, and supported by the Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, the Capital Theatre and the City of Greater Bendigo, captured and expressed stories of Bendigo and its people. Partners in the project included the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, the Golden Dragon Museum, the Bendigo Historical Society and CreateAbility.

**2019** A smaller-scale version of Space and Place, Galaxias, was commissioned for Geelong After Dark (GAD) which involved a major partnership with Greater City of Geelong and Barwon Water. Galaxias involved four 20 minute performances over the single evening with an ongoing

projection/sound installation occurring in between. The development process engaged a smaller Animation and shadow puppetry team a shorter focussed workshop period. The resulting performance event involved a small shadow puppet company with the general public being able to also play with the puppets during the projection installation sessions between performances.

#### **Major Partners:**

Traditional Owners Host Festival/Local Government/Presenter Made In Natimuk Team Creative Team of Host Community

## **Secondary Partners:**

Auspicious Arts ACT Natimuk Local arts and/or cultural groups and/or schools Funders and Sponsors.

## Images and logo links:

Space and Place Images Space and Place Logos

# Video and facebook Links:

- 1. Space and Place Made In Natimuk: <u>https://madeinnatimuk.com/space-and-place/</u>
- 2. Natimuk Space and Place: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Z83AWpAnDU&t=29s</u>
- 3. Latrobe Space and Place Highlights <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAMNuL5xnTg&feature=youtu.be</u>
- 4. Poppet Bendigo Highlights <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eq89KWO2d0o&feature=youtu.be</u>
- 5. Poppet Bendigo Training program. <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acwK\_oO8IoE</u>
- 6. Poppet Bendigo facebook site: <u>https://www.facebook.com/poppetbendigo/</u>
- 7. Y Space Facebook Page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/yspacenatimuk/">https://www.facebook.com/yspacenatimuk/</a>

# Quotes/feedback:

'My favourite show - perfectly illustrated the festival's charming mix of community involvement combined with professional skills and aesthetics.' Nati Frinj Festival Attendee 2017.

'Sensational work, thank you for sharing with Bendigo your skills and developing something that represents so many aspects of our history and life! 'Karli Tomin Poppet 2018

'Incredible! Brilliant example of community arts. So well done. Thanks so much, we are very lucky.' Cokes Obie Poppet 2018

'It was an amazing evening. Thank you to everyone who was involved in creating it - it was magical! 'Jane Westworth Poppet 2018

*'Congratulations everyone! Absolutely stunning ... Loved it!'* Mandy Field Poppet 2018

'Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in this wonderful and amazing event!! It was pure pleasure!! ' Anne Theiring Poppet 2018

'Congratulations to all involved. It was way past being awesome! Thank you.' Lorraine Brigdale Poppet 2018

*'Excellent presentation- a beautiful experience. Thank you to all involved'* Kate Mildren