

BITS AND PIECES

BIROGRAPHY – CAST, DIRECTOR, PLAYWRIGHT

REBECCA LISTER – Playwright and Actor

Rebecca is a playwright, director, performer and arts administrator and has worked in the arts industry for over twenty-five years. She works as a playwright, director, dramaturge, project manager, arts coordinator, facilitator, grant application writer and teacher. She has worked as a professional artist both nationally and internationally. She is currently (2014) enrolled in the Master of Writing for Performance at the VCA, Melbourne University. In 2013 she was the recipient of an Australia Council Creative Producer grant that enabled her to work as artist-in-residence for 12 months with Jesuit Social Services. In 2012 Rebecca was the recipient of a Bardas Foundation grant that enabled her to take **ensemble loin d'ici** to the Australia Festival in Divonne-les-Bains, France to perform her play **Ici**. In 2011/12 she was artist-in-residence at Support After Suicide and the book and project **Nothing Prepare me for this** was launched at La Mama in early May. In 2011 her play **Home for Lunch** (with David Bardas) had a sell out Melbourne season at Chapel off Chapel. In 2011 she worked with Punctum Theatre as part of the **Pageant and Pandemonium** program for the Castlemaine State Festival. In 2005 she wrote and directed **Through The Mist** - a Hepburn Health Service project and was awarded an AWGIE for her script. In 2004 she wrote **If I Should die Before I wake** which toured Victoria (2005) and had a Melbourne season at Chapel off Chapel (2004). In 2004 she received an **Ian Potter Cultural Trust Fund** grant to travel to the Last Frontiers Playwrights conference in the USA and the International Theatre Methods conference in Latvia. Her work has been published in the **Australian Script Centre** collections #4 and #7. From 2006 – 2010 she was the Arts and Culture Coordinator for Jesuit Social Services and managed the Artful Dodgers Studios. In 2008 she sat on the judging panel for the **AWGIE Awards**, Community and Youth Theatre section and was a member of the **Community Partnerships Panel** for Arts Victoria. In 2002 she received a 12 month mentorship from **Playworks** to work with writer and dramaturge Maryanne Lynch. She has co-established two arts companies – **Feral Arts** in Brisbane, Queensland and **Salamander Theatre** in Daylesford, Victoria. She has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Queensland. Her social work background provides her with a solid understanding of group processes, which she has been able to put into practice in a both an arts manager and facilitator. Rebecca lives in Melbourne.

JOANNE DAVIS - Actor

Joanne Davis has worked in the arts for over 15 years variously as an actor, performer, deviser, producer, director & lecturer. She has worked within regional Victoria, toured nationally & presented work in the U.K. Performance credits include **Bits & Pieces**, ICU Castlemaine (2011); **Site Unseen** by the City of Port Phillip for the Melbourne International Arts Festival (2011); **Foxholes of the Mind**, Larrikin Theatre, La Mama (2010); **Longing Belonging Land**, Melbourne International Arts Festival (2008) & **DMI Theatre of Speed / Back to Back Theatre** (2007). Joanne first performed in 1992 with Ballarat's Graffiti DanceTheatre. She has since completed a Diploma of Performing Arts from Ballarat Arts Academy (1997) & has performed with The Melbourne Comedy & Fringe & International Arts Festivals, 45downstairs & the Australian National Playwrights' Centre. She co-adapted to stage, Dorothy Porter's **The Monkey's Mask** which toured as a one-woman show to numerous Australian writer's festivals (2003-07). The author enthusiastically endorsed this adaptation. In 2002, Joanne produced & performed **Rumble** which showcased new Australian & U.K. writing for the Edinburgh Fringe Festival (Teviot, Gilded Balloon) with return London seasons (Etcetera Theatre, Camden Town). Her performing arts graduate show **Hold Your Breath** (1999) was performed within the Old Ballarat Cemetery based on stories gleaned from patients whilst working in palliative care. She was invited by Portland RAV to devise & direct a community project, **Stories from the Grave**, Admella Festival (2009). In 2010, along with visual artist, Sarah Lloyd, Joanne devised & conducted **Tea Tales – The Road Trip**, a series of arts workshops, which toured CWA centres throughout Victoria, NSW &

West Queensland. Joanne holds a Master of Primary Care – Palliative Care. Joanne lives in Melbourne.

TERRY JAENSCH – Dramaturge and Director

Terry is an Australian poet/actor/director/dramaturge and monologist. He has a background in acting, having studied at the **Herbert Berghof Studio** and **Stella Adler** conservatory in New York. His most recent publication (2013) is ***Shark*** (transit lounge) His one man show ***Kissing Myself*** was shortlisted for the **1995** Wal Cherry award and subsequently produced by **St Martin's Theatre**. His first book, ***Buoy*** was published in **2001** (FIP) and shortlisted for the Anne Elder Award by the Fellowship of Australian Writers. In **2004** he wrote and recorded 15 monologues based on his childhood in a Ballarat orphanage for ***Life Matters*** ABC Radio – since reworked and performed for theatre as ***Orphan's Own Project*** in Melbourne and regionally. In **2006** he was awarded an Asialink residency in Singapore where he worked collaboratively with poet Cyril Wong. The resulting work, ***Excess Baggage & Claim*** was launched in **2007**. His work has been anthologized, most recently in ***Out of the Box: Contemporary Australian Gay and Lesbian Poets*** and published in journals nationally and in the US, Germany, Japan, Singapore and India. His poems have been translated into Bengali and interpreted through classical Indian dance. He was dramaturge for the **2004** Ballarat School of Mines production of ***Alice***, writer/actor for ***Room*** at the Continental House in Hepburn **2003**, ***Return Home*** at the Hepburn Palais **2002**, co-writer/actor with Julianne O'Brien of ***Question Marks*** as a part of the inaugural short works season at 45 Downstairs **2002**. Terry has performed his ***Orphan*** monologues in a number of festival contexts regionally, nationally and internationally. In **2011** Terry was the dramaturge/director on Rebecca Lister's play ***Bits and Pieces***. **Terry** was storytelling coach for the **2011 Castlemaine State Festival** and is **Literature Coordinator** for the upcoming **2013** festival. He is also a member of the Castlemaine based **Live Arts** collective **Punctum**, as well as creative producer of Punctum's ***Friends Deciding To Do Stuff*** poetry/arts collaborative program. He has also worked as dramaturge within community writing workshop contexts facilitating performative/publication outcomes for various health/community organisations and their clients. Terry lives in Castlemaine.

BEVERLEY GELDARD – Actor

Since moving to Castlemaine Beverley has been involved in developing and staging large and intimate community theatre events. In 1991 she co-founded the **Castlemaine Fringe** and remained its artistic director for another 8 years. During that period she wrote and produced a live to air radio play, met and worked with Rebecca Lister on her original piece ***In Darkness and In Secrecy***. In 2000 she joined up with Cath Ryan and Leverage McDonnell and formed Barking Owl Theatre (BOT) staging ***Gravity*** 2002 and 2003 for La Mama and ABC Radio's Airplay 2006. In 2004 the company devised ***Past Possible (Buda Alive)*** based on the myths and stories of the women who lived at Buda Historic Home and performed it in the gardens where the sisters worked and played. BOT also ran free drama workshops for adults and children. In 2008 Bev was drama facilitator for ***COUCH*** a multi media hip hop BOT and Castlemaine State Festival (2009) production based on the concept of place and belonging. In 2011 Bev was invited to join the production of Cath Ryan's ***Precipice*** for the Castlemaine State Festival as actor, and then was delighted to team up with Rebecca Lister again for a short season of ***Bits and Pieces***. Bev has been working with ***Three's a Crowd***, a locally based musical theatre company and played a principle role (Big Edie) in their 2013 production of ***Grey Gardens***. In 2013 she was nominated for the Best Female Lead, (Doreen Burrows Award) by The Music Theatre Guild of Victoria. Beverley lives in Castlemaine.

MICHAEL TRELOAR - Actor

Michael graduated from the Victorian College of the Arts in 1995. His first professional engagement was for the 1996 Castlemaine State Festival with his one man show ***Visions of Poe*** - based on the

poetry and short stories of Edgar Allan Poe – which subsequently enjoyed a critically successful season at Theatre Works in St Kilda the following year. This led to a principal role in Melbourne Theatre Company's 1998 production of Bernard Shaw's **Misalliance**. In 2013 Michael appeared in Tracy Bourne's **The House at the End of the Line** for the Under the Floor Boards Project and also in Brian Friels **Molly Sweeney** for THE OLD VAN at the Footscray Community Arts Centre. Other productions for THE OLD VAN include **The Wild Girl - A Logos of Mary**, **The Undercover Boss (Measure for Measure)** and **The Life and Deaths of Don Koyote**. Michael has been involved with Lister's **Bits and Pieces** since its first public incarnation as a rehearsed reading at the Daylesford Words in Winter Festival and its two subsequent seasons in Castlemaine. For the past four years Michael has volunteered as a Narrator for Vision Australia recording audio books and appearing regularly on Vision Australia Radios **THE FICTION ROOM**.