

Biographies – HERE – Cast and Creatives

REBECCA LISTER – Playwright and Producer: Rebecca is a playwright, community artist, director, producer and teacher and has worked in the arts industry for over twenty-five years. She has worked as a professional artist both nationally and internationally. She holds a **Master of Writing for Performance VCA**, Melbourne University and a **Bachelor of Social Work** from the University of Queensland. In 2005 she wrote and directed *Through The Mist* - a Hepburn Health Service project and was awarded an **AWGIE** award for her script (2006). In 2013 she received an **Australia Council Creative Producer** grant and produced the *Thank you for listening* project. In 2012 she received a **Bardas Foundation** grant that enabled her to take *ensemble loin d'ici* to the Australia Festival in Divonne-les-Bain, France to perform her play *Ici*. She has been artist in residence with the **Victorian Trade Union Choir** since 2012 and is the playwright and director of their touring show *I'll be there*. She had two successful seasons of her play *Bits and Pieces* (director Terence Jaensch) in Castlemaine – ICU Space 2011 and Phee Broadway 2012. 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 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, the **Griffith Review** and the **Big Issue**. Rebecca is co-artistic director of **Anvil Productions**

TERENCE JAENSCH – Director, Dramaturge and Designer: Terence is an Australian poet, director and monologist. His first book of poetry *Buoy* (FIP) was shortlisted for the **Anne Elder Award** by the **Fellowship of Australian Writers**. He has worked as Writer-in-Community, Poetry Editor (Cordite) Artist-in-Residence, Dramaturge, Artistic Director of the **2005 Emerging Writers' Festival**, poetry teacher and in a variety of arts/community and local government programming positions. In 2004 he wrote and recorded 15 monologues based on his childhood in a Ballarat orphanage for '**Life Matters**' **ABC Radio**. He was awarded an **Asialink** residency in Singapore where, with poet Cyril Wong, he co-authored the volume *Excess Baggage & Claim* (Transit Lounge). He has won awards including the **Melbourne**

Poet's Union International Poetry Prize, the **Victorian Writers' Centre Poetry Slam** and was on the winning team of the **Melbourne Writers' Festival Poetry Slam**. His work has been anthologised, most recently in ***Out of the Box: Contemporary Australian Gay and Lesbian Poets*** (Puncher and Wattmann) and published in journals nationally and in the US, Germany, Japan, Singapore and India. His latest volume of poetry is ***Shark*** (Transit Lounge 2013). He was director and dramaturge for the play ***Bits and Pieces*** by Rebecca Lister and has directed theatrical performances of his poems ***Air*** and ***Dead Cow***. Terry was storytelling coach for the **2011 Castlemaine State Festival** and was **Literature Coordinator** for the **2013** festival. He is 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 trained as an actor, having studied at the **Herbert Berghof Studio** and **Stella Adler** conservatory in New York. Terence lives in Castlemaine.

JOANNE DAVIS - Actor and Producer: Joanne 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) and Phee Broadway (2012); ***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 has 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). 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. 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 is co-artistic director of **Anvil Productions**.

ANNIE LUMSDEN – Actor: Annie graduated in 2012 from the **University of Ballarat Arts Academy**, where she gained a **BA in Acting**. During her training she played Mephistopheles in ***Doctor Faustus/Lights the Lights***, Abigail Williams in

The Crucible, Miranda in *The Tempest* and Katherine in *The Kitchen*. Since graduating she has been involved in a number of new and independent projects such as *Killing Game Bakers Dozen Theatre Co.*, *An Infinite Ache Owl & Pussycat*, *Little Daughters La Mama*, *Dacryphilia Broken Mirror Productions*, and *DRAFT Bakers Dozen Theatre Co.* Annie is also a collaborator for the new theatre company *15 Minutes From Anywhere* and performed in their production *Motherfucker*, at *La Mama 2014*. Annie was most recently seen in Adam Cass's *Bock kills her father* with She Said theatre company at La Mama for the Melbourne Fringe Festival 2015.

DONNA STEVEN - Actor: Donna is an Australian actor and voice artist. She trained and performed with **Adelaide's La Mama Youth Theatre** and **The Actors Centre** in Sydney before embarking on a ten year career in broadcasting. She was awarded a **Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters Scholarship** and completed her broadcast training at the **Australian Film, Television and Radio School in Sydney**. Donna has worked as a scriptwriter, producer, presenter and voice artist in radio and television, and for five years was the female voice of SBS Television. Since returning to acting in 2011, Donna has performed leading roles with **Castlemaine Theatre Company** in *The Donahue Sisters*, *Aftershocks*, and *Playhouse Creatures*. She has also performed and directed for Castlemaine Theatre Company as part of the 2012 and 2013 **Artfields Festivals**, an event that showcases the work of artists and performers based in the Mount Alexander Shire. In 2013, Donna worked with the **Castlemaine State Festival** on their opening event, *Cornucopia*, and had a main role in the **Castlemaine State Festival/V-Line** rail safety film project, *In Their Shoes*. She is currently rehearsing a children's theatre project to be performed as part of the **2014 Castlemaine Children's Literature Festival**, and is developing an oral history project, **3450 @7(0)**, for the **2015 Castlemaine State Festival**.

JESSICA CORNISH – Lighting designer, operator and stage manager: Jessica has a **Diploma of Live Production**, Theatre and Events Box Hill TAFE, Melbourne (2012) and a **Bachelor of Music Performance** Berklee College of Music, Boston, USA (2010). She is currently enrolled in a **Bachelor of Health Science/Masters of Speech Pathology** La Trobe University, Melbourne, AUS (2016). She has worked as a lighting designer and operator since 2010 and has worked on shows at **Lock and Load, Crown Casino, Gig Power, Trades Hall, Parade College** and **La Mama**. She has worked as a stage manager since 2010 with **Celtic Illusion, Eire Entertainment, Wired 4 Sound, Sexpo, Produce Now, Midsummer Festival** and the **Victorian Trade Union Choir**. Jessica has worked as a vocal performer since 2010 and performs on a regular basis as part of an acoustic duo/solo artists at public bars, cafes and private events. From 2012 – 2012 she worked as a **Private Vocal**

Coach at Wendy's School of Music. Since 2012 she has worked as **Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy Assistant** under the guidance of practising speech and occupational therapists with children under the age of twelve. This year she is also the **General Secretary La Trobe Student Union (LTSU)**. Jessica lives in Melbourne.

MICHAEL ROPER – Musician: Michael is a respected conductor, music teacher and musician. Michael has particular skills in working within community settings and has conducted the Victorian Trade Union choir for more than twenty years. He has a Diploma of Teaching (Music), a Graduate Diploma of Contemporary Music Technology, La Trobe University and is currently completing his MA in Music Composition, Monash University. He has been working as a music in community and theatrical settings since the 1980's and has worked with numerous companies and projects.

ROBERT KELTY - Lighting, set and sound designer: Robert is an Indigenous visual artist, theatre and sound technician and actor. His theatre designs are akin to sculptures and have ethereal and evocative elements. Robert's art, on whatever stage it is acted, comes from deep intuitive and instinctual forces. Expressions of feelings and dreams fuel Robert's creative oeuvre and these can be seen in designs such as ***Agamemnon*** (Federation University, 2005) and ***The Mark Twain You Don't Know*** (Olentangy Music, 2008). Robert's designs are subtle and dreamlike. Robert ran his own Shakespearean company in Tasmania, ***Phoenix Shakespeare***, which produced ***Hamlet*** and ***Julius Caesar***, as well as school shows and mini-touring shows. In 2007 Robert won the ***Lucarto Peace Prize*** for his sculpture, ***The Faceless and the Forgotten*** and in 2014 2014 was shortlisted for the Indigenous Ceramic Art Award (ICAA) at the *Shepparton Art Museum*. Robert is currently exhibited in the Indigenous Art Awards at the Shepparton Art Museum with his piece ***Fractured Identity***. Robert has a Graduate Diploma of Education (2013), a Bachelor of Visual Art (2009) and a diploma in Multi-media/performance (2003). Robert lives in Ballarat.