



Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is Australia's flagship puppetry company dedicated to the development and creation of the art form, having created over 80 new Australian works and performed to more than 2.2 million people.

OUR VISION Be internationally recognised as a Centre of Excellence in Puppetry.

OUR PURPOSE Through puppetry we share stories that connect audiences across generations.

OUR VALUES

EXPLORING WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN.

Through puppetry we engage with timeless and universal issues, exploring and celebrating what it is to be human. We encourage people to pause, wonder and reflect, helping to grow and nourish their emotional intelligence and to understand the human condition.

INCLUSION. We welcome all members of the community to connect with our performances and programs. We work hard to remove barriers and make our work inclusive and accessible to all.

EXCELLENCE. We strive for personal and professional excellence in everything we do. We treasure our audiences with an uncompromising commitment to quality. Our puppets are beautifully and superbly hand-crafted. We are leaders in the art form and artist development for puppetry.

IMAGINATION. We create adventurous and enriching theatre that expands the way audiences see, feel and experience the world. We are courageous. We experiment with new ideas and push the boundaries of the art form. Our artistic offerings heighten the imagination. We create contemporary puppetry works, fusing puppetry, dance, new media, visual arts, music, theatre and adaptations of popular literary works.

JOY. We are an energetic, fun-loving and playful company. We bring joy to our audience through offering a mirror to their lives and a window to the lives of others.

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD MEMBERS

David Hansen (Chair)
Lisa Hamilton (Vice Chair)
Ian Booth (Apr-Dec)
Kelly Carter
Dr. Leah Mercer
Dr. David Mofflin
Philip Mitchell

STAFF

Philip Mitchell, Artistic Director & CEO

Natalie Bell, Executive Producer

Michael Barlow, Associate Director

Hannah Rule, Producer (Jan - Nov)

Susan Clarke, Producer (Dec)

Jackson Harrison, Production & Technical Officer

Georgia Wesley Part-time Bookings & Administration Officer

Elena Silva, Marketing & Communications Officer

Karen Connolly, Finance Officer

John Michael Swinbank, Publicist

OUR ARTISTS

Shane Adamczak, Nicholas Barlow, Rebecca Bradley, Ron Brooks, Lee Buddle, Kylie Bywaters, Karen Cook, Georgina Corke, George Crawley, Amberly Cull, Isaac Diamond, Chris Donnelly, Daniel Dosek, Scott Galbraith, Timothy Green, Kate Gregory, Michael Griffin, Tove Jansson Joshua Grove, Michelle Hall, John Harrison, Jessica Harland-Kenny, Karen Hethey, Leon Hendroff, Don Hopkins, Noemie Huttner-Koros, Stefan Karlsson, Yvan Karlsson, Ciara Kerr, Jacob Lehrer, Agnès Limbos, Sam Longley, Julia Martini, Iona McAuley, Sandra McKendrick, Greg Methe, Liam Murray, Peta Murray, Lee Neville, Theresa O'Connor, Rachel Ogle, Nick Pages Oliver, Hannah Parssinen, Rhiannon Petersen, Campbell Pollock, Ben Russell, Christian Schooneveldt-Reid, Shona Schutz, Gala Shevtsov, Narelle Simpson, Kristie Smith, Nora Stelter, Byron Taylor, Joni Tham, Rosemary Thurston, Shirley Van Sanden, Graham Walne, Tani Webb, Michelle Weguelin, Margaret Wild, Cecile Williams, Tim Winton

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KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2019



Spare Parts is a vibrant creator of excellence in puppetry

5 new works

164 in-theatre performances

270,000+ total reach (audience & participants):

62,000+ young audience members 0-26 years,
240,672 Western Australians reached,
13,000+ in education settings.

101 activities in regional WA with a reach of 13,000+



Spare Parts is a leader in artist training & development

110 professional artists trained

2 international masterclasses

50 individual artists employed across 137 employment opportunities



Build & retain diverse audiences

21 schools supported with 1,748 tickets and bussing via Schools Inclusion Program

4 Relaxed format shows, **4** AUSLAN interpreted performances

10,400+ School of Puppetry Participation

15-week national tour

10-week regional WA school tour



Spare Parts is a sustainable organisation

67% Earned Income

43,276 paid tickets (incl national tour)

38 years of continuous operations

Report from Chair

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre continued to deliver extraordinary results in 2019 – performing to ever-growing audience numbers both domestically and internationally, expanding the art form to new levels with multi-award nominated and critically acclaimed new experimental works, growing the adult market via new adult focused works, all whilst continuing to provide the in-house seasons, extensive touring, school of puppetry and artist training and development that we love and expect from this exceptional organisation.

The 2019 financial performance was also strong, as has consistently been the case in recent years. The robust financial position enables the creative development that is so vital to the vibrancy of a performing arts organisation, and so evident in the works developed and performed by Spare Parts.

I would particularly like to record my congratulations to Artistic Director Philip Mitchell and Executive Producer Natalie Bell, and of course the team they lead at Spare Parts, for their artistic creativity, operational execution, and financial stewardship in 2019. It is through them that Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is delivering on its goal to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence in puppetry, with ever growing intergenerational appeal.

The support of our sponsors means that Spare Parts is able to expand its reach and perform to audiences that may not otherwise have the opportunity, such as the sponsorship of our Schools Inclusion Program, and our regional and national tours. For their vital support, I thank all our sponsors, including our new and continuing donors, and Adopt-a-Puppet parents, who are so important to us, not just financially but also through attendances to performances and for being part of the Spare Parts Puppet Theatre family.

In 2019, Spare Parts launched the “20 Champions for 2020” campaign, which includes the establishment of a donors’ circle - initially focused on support for a new work in 2020 called Beanstalk, a retelling of Jack and the Beanstalk from the giant’s perspective. The support of the donors’ circle is greatly appreciated, and I look forward to its growth in 2020 and beyond.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre is fortunate to have a strong and committed Board, further strengthened in April 2019 by new member Ian Booth who also joined the artistic sub-committee. In line with its duty for ensuring strong governance, in 2019 the Board continued its focus on the strategic business plan with particular emphasis on venue redevelopment options. As always, significant effort has also gone into the establishment and cultivation of sponsorships, including the new donors’ circle, and this remains a constant focus for the Board as we strive to achieve our organisational goals. I sincerely thank each of my fellow Board members for their ongoing commitment and support towards the effective operation of the Board.

At the time of writing, the world’s human population is in the grips of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the enforced closures and social distancing measures implemented by the Australian Government is having a particularly significant adverse impact on the performing arts sector in this country. Amongst other measures, Spare Parts has cancelled all performances until at least Term 4 2020, which will clearly have a material effect on the financial health of the organisation. Whilst we do not yet know how this crisis will play out, the strength of Spare Parts’ financial position has enabled us to commit to paying all our employees and artists for the rest of 2020 regardless of whether there is work for them to perform, whilst keeping the organisation fully intact. The Board and management at Spare Parts unanimously feel it is our duty to support the arts industry at this difficult time, and we are pleased to be able to provide support in this way.

I would especially like to thank Lisa Hamilton, Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the FRAC sub-committee, Natalie Bell and Philip Mitchell for their phenomenal proactive response in managing the organisation and its people, and for turning this crisis into an opportunity to explore new markets for the art form, commence creative development works and accelerate plans for our 40th year celebrations. I am convinced Spare Parts will emerge from the Covid crisis in a position of strength, with clear and exciting plans, and poised to deliver – as always.

It is my pleasure to share this Annual Report on the 38th year of continuous operations and congratulate the entire Spare Parts Puppet Theatre community for delivering another outstanding year. There is much to look forward to as we plan for our 40th year celebrations and continue to deliver on our vision to be internationally recognised as a centre of excellence in puppetry.



David Hansen
Chair



9,117
e-news subscribers



9,907
Facebook likes
10,140 followers



1,900
Instagram followers



1,217
Twitter followers
2,900 Likes

Report from Artistic Director / CEO

In 2019 Spare Parts Puppet Theatre once again demonstrated our position as a driving force in the contemporary puppet theatre landscape in Australia. Reaching over 270,000 people with our work and growing our position as an internationally recognised company with tours to Malaysia, Singapore and presenting leading international puppetry exponent, Agnès Limbos attracting artists from both the east and overseas to participate.



On Our Beach, our new theatre work for 2019, saw the coming together of a phenomenal group of artists, Peta Murray, the Vice Chancellors research fellow at RMIT, with long time Spare Parts regionally based artist Rebecca Bradley bringing her experience with interactive and immersive theatre, another regionally based artist, designer and visual artist Cecile Williams, singer song writer and PNG Australian Tani Walker, and Shona Mae an Australian Indonesian performance maker. This challenging and highly experimental critically acclaimed with audiences and peers alike. A significant milestone in the development of contemporary puppetry in Australia.

We have collaborated with over 50 outstanding artists and have been inspired by our cross generational audience to create and present meaningful theatre that respected their intelligence and emotional growth.

Our small but incredible team saw us deliver 28 festival and event presentations, String Symphony touring to the Arts Centre Melbourne, City of Stonnington, Broome, York, Penrith and various WA festivals. Continuing to strengthen our partnership with the Joondalup Festival saw the world premiere of *Galileo and Celeste*, an interactive work designed by Leon Hendroff and commissioned by the City of Joondalup and City of Greater Geraldton, with a presentation at WoW Fest.

With adult focused work becoming a growing new market for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre our WAAPA partnership saw the training of 25 artists and the presentation of a new adult puppetry work, *Life on Earth*, attracting nearly 300 patrons. The presentation of *Pinocchio* from Maribor Puppet Theatre in Slovenia, further developing our adult puppetry audience development.

Our FirstHand Program saw the creation of a new Festival and event work *Big Bangs* and 150 artists from across Australia attended our training programs.

The regional and remote touring program supported by Healthway and Horizon Power saw *Blueback* and our workshop program reach more than 4700 young people over the 10 weeks duration and our National Tour of Roald Dahl's *The Twits* reaching close to 22,000 people over a challenging 3-month tour through both metro and regional centres across the eastern seaboard and regional WA.

The Access and Inclusion program supported by the Feilman Foundation and Fremantle Ports gave close to 1800 young people experiencing disadvantage the experience of coming to a puppetry performance, for many this being their first time in a theatre.

Creative development of new work and the investment in creative experimentation is critical to pursuing our artistic vision. From our creative fund, we invested in the creation of three new works, *Ninniyok*, a partnership with Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre, *Beantalk* a retelling of the famous tale from the giant's perspective and *The Man who Planted Trees* a new work for 2021.

With our 40-year anniversary upon us we have much to celebrate most of all our small but dedicated team that facilitates a demanding and expansive program and the outstanding artists we continue to attract to our work. We are celebrating a strong financial performance in 2019 owing much to the *The Twits* national tour and *String Symphony*. We were successful in our Organisational Investment Program application to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Culture and while submitting strong applications that were recommended for funding to the Australia Council, we still remain unsuccessful with this avenue of funding. Resourcing the creation of new work continues to be one of our biggest challenges. With agility, resourcefulness and continuing with our excellent governance and management, the future looks thrilling and much anticipated for Spare Parts.

Philip Mitchell
Artistic Director / CEO

NOMINATED FOR 5 PERFORMING ARTS WESTERN AUSTRALIA AWARDS

WINNER | BEST MAINSTAGE PRODUCTION

On Our Beach, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Best Actor (Female)

Bec Bradley *On Our Beach*, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Best Mainstage Director

Philip Mitchell, *On Our Beach*, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Best Composition or Arranging

Lee Buddle *On Our Beach*, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre

Best Stage Design

Cecile Williams, *On Our Beach*, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre



Image: *On Our Beach*. Photo by Jessica Wyld

On Our Beach

NEW WORK WORLD PREMIERE

On Our Beach was an immersive work that followed FOMO the Dog on a shoes off, hands on, never before experienced holiday to a very special beach.

Director: Philip Mitchell
Writer: Peta Murray
Assistant Director: Rebecca Bradley
Designer & Maker: Cecile Williams
Puppet Maker & Set Construction: Leon Hendroff & Michael Griffin
Lighting Designer & Maker: Chris Donnelly
Sound Consultant: Lee Buddle
Production Manager & Maker: Jackson Harrison
Performers: Rebeca Bradley
Shona Mae
Tani Walker

As an immersive work about inclusion and strangers becoming friends, *On Our Beach* offered a more intimate performance with a capacity limited to 100 audience members per show, as opposed to 190 per show for our other seasons. The audience had the chance to ride a surfboard, be part of sculptures by the sea, play a game of beach volleyball and swim in a sea of shimmering balls.

The foyer was full of interactive offerings that connected to the themes of the work. From the moment the audience entered the building they began their experience of the work, passing through 'serious' identification business and pest-control "clearance" before being enjoying pre-departure fun and games including an invitation to take selfies and share with friends.

Designed for ages five plus and to be experienced in family groups, volunteers and performers guided the audience through spaces not common to the audience such as backstage corridors as well as spending a part of the performance on the stage in amongst the puppets, performers and their fellow audience members. The audience keeps moving throughout the experience and was presented surprises and sensory experiences along the way. Ultimately the journey transports the audience to an imaginary beach where strangers played games together and may just make a new friendship or two.

The opening night performance and event sold out, followed by four additional sold out performances during the season. The season received a substantial amount of positive feedback from audience members and reviewers.

Schools Season | 20 – 27 September
General public season | 28 September – 12 October

3048

Attendance

41

Performances

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

“One of the best interactive shows for kids I have seen in a long time.”

- Justin, Theatre Manager.

“...the idea and simple structure of this show is nothing but delightful as is and I hope as many families as possible get to experience it over the holidays in its debut season.”


- Victoria Wyatt, ArtsHub

“The charm of the work lies in the detail and feeling evoked by simple, yet clever techniques.”

- Laura Money, Fourth Wall Media

“...it really is a show that will be appreciated by parents as much as their children, which makes this a particularly attractive holiday option for families.”

- Kimberley Shaw, Stage Whispers





2,247

Attendance

37

Performances

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

“The engagement of the children in the audience was simply magical as they responded to the story line and let their imaginations take them away.”

- Audience member

“It’s a kooky story about embracing adventure, adjusting to a new environment and coming to understand the people and creatures who share the place we live”

- Post Newspaper

“It makes me happy to see my son hearing and engaging with a story that is not on a screen, and very much 'alive'! It felt human.”

- Audience member

Moominpappa at Sea

Adapted from the book by Tove Jansson

Produced by special arrangement with Agency North Ltd www.agencynorth.com

Director: Michael Barlow
Creative Consultant: Noriko Nishimoto
Designer/Puppet Maker: Leon Hendroff
Sound Consultant: Lee Buddle
Lighting Designer: Elliot Chambers
Production Manager: Jackson Harrison
Performers: Michael Barlow

Moominpappa at Sea is a family adventure that sees the adorable and famous Finnish Moomin characters set off on a once-in-a-lifetime island adventure. As they interact with their new island home, each member of the Moomin family discovers some of the island's secrets and ultimately comes to realise that home is a connection to family.

General public season | 14 Jan – 2 Feb

4089

Attendance

39

Performances

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

"...It is an emotional, inspiring story that cleverly incorporates dance. The actors were brilliant, the puppets amazing."

- Junior reviewer, SeeSaw Magazine

"There are no words", my 6-year-old whispers, without taking her eyes from the stage ... This was one of the best children's theatre productions we've seen."

- Rosalind Appleby, Seesaw Magazine

"It is abstract enough for their [children's] imagination to fill in the gaps but still clear enough to be really engaging."

- Audience member

"I especially liked the element of contemporary dance. Thank you for such a wonderful experience that I could share with my son."

- Audience member

Fox

Adapted from the award-winning book by Margaret Wild and Ron Brooks

Director/Co-Creator: Michael Barlow
Creative Consultant/Co-Creator: Noriko Nishimoto
Choreographer/Co-Creator: Jacob Lehrer
Designer/Puppet Maker: Leon Hendroff
Composer: Lee Buddle
Lighting Designer: Graham Walne
Costume Maker: Nicole Marrington, Sheridan Savage
Stage Manager: Jackson Harrison
Performers: Scott Galbraith, Rachel Arianne Ogle, Gala Shevtsov
Narrator: Kyle Morrison

After a terrible bushfire an injured Magpie and Dog form an unexpected friendship, sharing a deep bond, until into their midst a Fox arrives. This thrilling fusion of puppetry and dance takes you on a journey through scorched scrubland and ochre deserts where friendships are tested, and the true meaning of loyalty and companionship is discovered.

Schools season | 1 – 5 July

General public season | 6 – 20 July



4199

Attendance

37

Performances

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

“Blueback is a heart-warming environmental fable.”

– Lucy Eyre, Theatre People

“I found the telling of the story deeply and emotionally engaging.”

– Audience member

“...the beautiful simplicity of the puppetry will keep younger audiences engaged”.

– Sarah McNeil, The Post

“It was amazing how the puppeteers brought the puppets to life and gave them personalities.”

– Audience member

Blueback

Adapted from the book by Tim Winton

Director: Philip Mitchell

Writer: Peta Murray

Designer: Hannah Parssinen

Puppet Construction: Greg Methé

Composer: Don Hopkins

Production Manager: Jackson Harrison

Performers: Jessica Harlond-Kenny, Daniel Dosek

Blueback is an evocative story set along the Western Australian coastline. It captures the mystery of the sea and the majesty of an old fish called Blueback. When this precious world is threatened by change and development, Abel has to find the courage to stand up for what he believes in.

Schools season | 8 – 12 April

General public season | 13 – 27 April

Touring

Go for 2&5 Regional Schools Tour

Blueback

The tour delivered performances of *Tim Winton's Blueback*, celebrating the beloved children's book about a young boy who finds connection with place and nature through his fascination (and eventual friendship with) a giant blue groper. Horizon Power mascot shadow puppetry and Go for 2 & 5 fruit & veg puppet making workshops were delivered alongside the show to compliment the performance and allowed deeper engagement with the audience.

Performance Attendance: 3,435

Workshop Participation: 1,281

In partnership with Healthway, Horizon Power and the Department of Local Government Sport and Cultural Industries, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, once again, toured its Go for 2&5 Regional Schools tour to regional WA including the South-West, Great Southern, Mid-West, Wheatbelt, Goldfields-Esperance and Gascoyne regions.

The nine-week tour ran from February 2019 through to May 2019, with a reach of over 4,700 people and targeting young people children, Indigenous people, rural and remote communities and disadvantaged groups. The tour delivered 30 performances, and 44 workshops across 29 schools.

Schools visited as part of the Go for 2&5 Regional tour:

*Albany Primary School
Australind Senior High School
Bethel Christian School Albany
Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School
Carnarvon Christian School
College Row School Bunbury
Cranbrook Primary School
Exmouth District High School
Geraldton Holland Street School
Frankland River Primary School*

*Gnowangerup District High School
Margaret River Montessori School
Mount Magnet District High School*
Munglinup Primary School
Nannup District High School
Northhampton Primary School
Nulsen Primary School
Parklands Albany
Shark Bay School
St Bernards Kojonup*

*St Joseph's School Boulder
St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School
St Patrick's School Katanning
Walpole Primary School
Wellstead Primary School
Williams Primary School
Woodbury Boston Primary School
Woodthorpe School, Cunderdin
Yakamia Primary School*

*The performance at Mount Magnet was cancelled due to one of the performers seriously spraining their ankle the previous day. The performers were able to talk through the show with the classes, provided a demonstration with some of the puppets and then presented the puppet workshop. Yalgoo Primary School was informed that the performance would not be going ahead and they elected not to make the trip to Mount Magnet.

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

"Our primary students were inspired and enjoyed it immensely. This created a platform to have rich discussions with my Year 5 class."

- Teacher

"It was the perfect ending to our unit on Blueback- thank you!"

- Teacher

"Terrific performance by performers, amazing puppetry, creativity"

- Teacher

"Thank you for making the trip all the way to where we were"

- Gascoyne teacher

"The students were all very engaged with both the play and the workshop afterwards. Great play and a fun workshop afterwards."

- Teacher

"It's awesome to get such a great quality performance coming to our remote town. The students don't have these types of opportunities very often, so we really appreciate it."

- Teacher

"The opportunity for the students to touch the puppets afterwards. So important for students with severe disabilities."

- Teacher

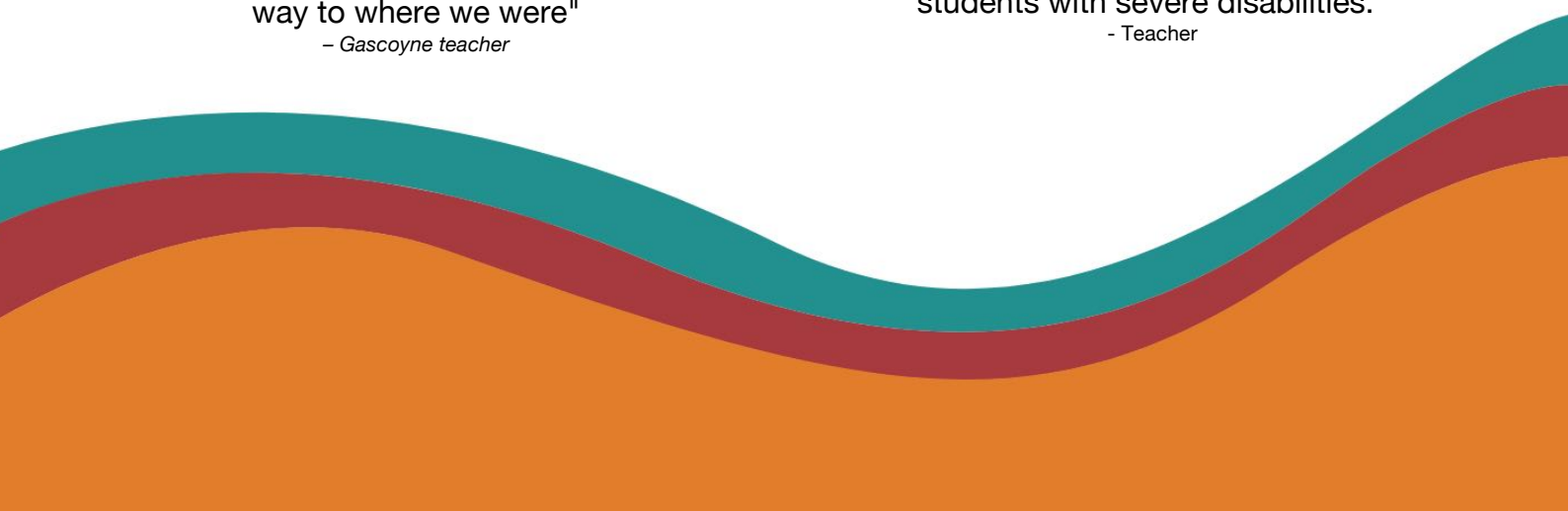




Image: String Symphony in Broome 2019

National and State Touring

String Symphony

Created by Leon Hendroff

Commissioned by the City of Joondalup in 2017

String Symphony is a large-scale interactive performance installation that uses puppetry to explore connection, community and collaboration.

Continuing a strong touring demand in 2018, 2019 saw String Symphony toured from the red earth of the Kimberley Region in Western Australia, to the prestigious iconic Arts Centre Melbourne, the beloved puppet, named "Leor" delighted a vast cross-section of Australian audiences.

The tour demand for String Symphony continues looking towards future years, making it a valuable addition to the suite of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre Shows.

2019 Performances:
Cockburn Cirque Du Gateway, WA
Coogee Live, WA
WA Day, WA
Broome, WA
York Festival, WA
Arts Centre Melbourne, VIC
Real Festival Penrith, NSW

154,800

Attendance

18

Performance days

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

"We loved having Leor and the team here!
...it was a really beautiful and soothing
installation...and it worked so well for the
demographic"

- Natasha Phillips, Associate Producer, Programming
Arts Centre, Melbourne

National and State Touring

Roald Dahl's *The Twits*

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's presentation of the familiar and well-loved story, Roald Dahl's *The Twits*, toured for 15 weeks across Australia and Western Australia, reaching nearly 22,000 people over 92 performances. Performances in the form of puppetry are rarely available to Australian audiences and especially rare in regional and remote areas of Australia. This adaptability was particularly suitable for smaller and unconventional venues allowing for greater number of communities to gain access to the performing arts. Highlights included touring to a number of Arts North West venues in NSW and reaching eight venues across Western Australia.

Community engagement is a core component of the tour with communities able to contribute to the overarching 'Good Thoughts Project' which involved foyer activities linked to social media. Audiences were invited to write a "good thought" and "bring the dead tree to life" by sticking their thoughts to a banner of the dead tree from the show's set. Hashstags invited audiences to post their Good Thoughts and two Instagram frames, designed by Leon Hendroff, were available for the audience to take photos with and link to the #goodthoughtsproject.

National Tour | 24 June – 7 September
Western Australian tour | 24 September – 12 October

21,955

Attendance

92

Performances

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

"A wonderful interpretation of a much-loved
story - cleverly delivered."

- Portland Arts Centre

"a good theatrical interpretation of
Dahl's story."

- MonkeyBaa

"...the children loved it and it started
conversations about Roald Dahl."

- Moora Performing Arts Centre

"We hope the Twits will come again and give
us another great laugh."

- young audience member, Bunbury

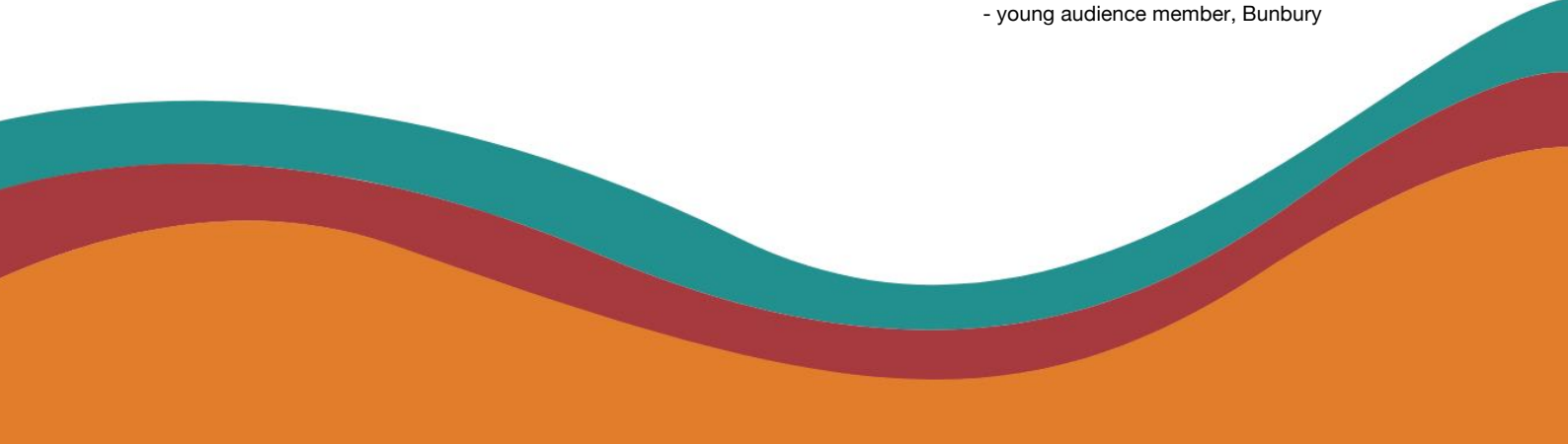




Image: Agnès Limbos with workshop participants. Photo by Phillip Mitchell



Life on Earth

Director: Michael Barlow

Devised and Performed by: WAAPA 3rd Year Performance Making students

Production Manager: Jackson Harrison

First loves, last rites, old wounds, fresh starts: the fleeting moments of life reveal their secrets in this impressionistic portrait of human life on Earth.

Cherished moments of joy, sorrow, solitude and union shimmer in this highly visual puppet and object theatre work devised and created for adult audiences.

General public season | Oct 30 – Nov 02, 2019

290

Attendance

3

Performances

FEEDBACK & REVIEWS:

“An outstanding work, superbly rendered by its cast of graduating students.”

- Steven Cohen, SeeSaw Magazine



Middle and bottom images: Life on Earth (WAAPA). Photo by: Stephen Heath

School of Puppetry

Professional Artistic Development | HIGHLIGHTS / SUMMARY

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre has a long serving commitment to art form development. The School of Puppetry is one of a kind in Australia. It offers unique opportunities for artists and others who are interested in puppetry to learn, connect, develop, play and create. The School of Puppetry offers access to a range of levels from quality, hands-on artistic experiences for young people to emergent and professional artist training and art form development.

FirstHand Puppetry Artist Training Program

The FirstHand Emergent Puppetry Artist Training Program supports emergent artists to develop their skills within the art form of puppetry. What started in 2010 with two young artists, has grown year by year and now attracts interest from around the country and overseas, from artists at varying stages in their career and from a broad cross section of disciplines. We have now nurtured 22 artists through this program.

In 2019 the artists selected for the program were Noemie Huttner-Koros and Timothy Green. The program commenced in February with a full-time one-week training intensive with Artistic Director Philip Mitchell and Associate Director Michael Barlow. This was followed by a two-week (part-time) mentorship follows leading to two weeks (full-time) paid engagement to create a short new devised performance in collaboration with Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

About Big Bangs

A history of the world in Bangs! What was the first big bang? Is technology today's bangiest bang? Big Bangs is an hilarious clownish romp through the turbulent, accidental and unexpected moments of human history. This is 20-minutes of explosions, extinctions, laughter and a whole lot of silliness in this two-person puppetry slapstick.

Big Bangs was launched at an intimate gathering in Spare Parts' studio space on Friday, March 29.

Big Bangs was co-created by Philip Mitchell, Michael Barlow, Noemie Huttner-Koros & Timothy Green as part of the 2019 FirstHand Puppetry Artist Training Program

One-Week Intensive | Michael Barlow & Leon Hendroff

The unique 5 day puppetry training intensive had a special focus on the exquisite art of marionette manipulation where participants were able to build their own marionette puppet as part of the learning.

Over two days, internationally acclaimed designer and maker Leon Hendroff guided artists through the exquisite art of marionette manipulation and the fine skills required to bring a puppet to life along with insights into puppet construction, the technology of puppet making and the processes of a puppet designer.

The final three days were an intensive puppet manipulation bootcamp with Michael Barlow, including rigorous skills training, experimentation and in-studio performance making. The participants were able to explore performer/puppet relationship, vocal work for puppetry, visual dramaturgy and the contemporary context of the art form under the guidance of Michael's expert lead.

Tertiary Training Partnership | Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA)

Michael Barlow again worked with WAAPA third year Bachelor of Performing Arts (BPA) students to deliver the only tertiary level puppetry and visual theatre unit in Australia. The unit comprised of skills training, theory and experimentation and was run in a condensed form over six weeks in late 2019. At the end of the unit the students performed a new original puppetry work at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre *Life on Earth*.

Three public performances were held at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre on 30 October to 3 November at 7.30pm. A number of WAAPA BPA graduates who completed the puppetry unit with Spare Parts, have gone on to be cast in shows and/or gain work with Spare Parts' active festival and events performances. Michael also contributed to the Industry Reference Group for the BPA Course which holds meetings twice a year.

International Masterclasses | Agnès Limbos

International guest artist and iconic figure of Object Theatre Agnès Limbos travelled from Belgium to deliver what was one of the highlights of the year at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre. Her much anticipated workshop explored the relationship and interplay between object and artist. Agnès worked with participants to reveal the universe which arises when actor and object come together.

The two-week intensive training course attracted applicants from around Australia, asserting our position as Australia's premier destination for puppetry training. Eight artists were selected to join the training intensive.

The one-week training was held July 29 to August 2 with an informal showing of some short samples at the conclusion of the workshop.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's professional training program continues to be a keystone for exceptional professional development opportunities for local and national puppetry artists.

International Guest Artist | Miha Bezeljak

Slovenian Puppeteer Miha Bezeljak, treated Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's Company Artists, Associates and VIPs to a performance of *Pinocchio* and short masterclass in object theatre during his visit to Perth for the Fremantle Biennale.

Pinocchio is returning to its roots. Back to the carpenter's workshop, where the carpenter's tools revive, wood blocks and scraps come to life and the workbench becomes a world of its own. *Pinocchio* goes on a journey and we on an exploration of puppetry approaches. *Pinocchio* – the original metaphor for the magic of puppetry art. This work features vintage puppets made over 40 years ago by famous puppet maker Jezovšk.

During the workshop, Miha lead participants through how working with inanimate objects can provide a creative challenge to the best puppeteer. Miha demonstrated techniques to cue character or a simple story and used examples of the challenges that the director and performer overcame during their creative process for *Pinocchio*. This workshop challenged participants to find imaginative and creative solutions.

110

Artists participated in
professional development



Image: The Last Numbat at South Perth Sounds Concert 2020. Photo by Kaifu Deng

Festival & Event Works

Festival and Event works assist in raising the profile, income and artistic variety in Spare Parts Puppet Theatre's suite of works. These public showings are the perfect complement to the in-theatre works, as they have the ability to reach audiences that may not usually attend traditional theatre.

63,210*

Attendance

10

Presentations

**excludes String Symphony presentations*

Galileo and Celeste

Designed by Leon Hendroff

NEW WORK – WORLD PREMIERE

Commissioned by the City of Greater Geraldton and City of Joondalup

Galileo and Celeste are giant and mysterious ancient figures that will grab your attention and engage your imagination with their impressive stature and mystique. These oversized and intriguing forms roam amongst the crowd – moving slowly, very slowly in a fast-paced world. A horn call, making you pause and look deeper into the impressive carapaces, here you are transported to another world, suspended in time and space.

Experience the joy of slowing down with this interactive blend of puppetry, performance and sculpture.

Galileo and Celeste premiered at the 2019 Joondalup Festival and 2019 WoW Fest in Geraldton.

Big Bangs

Co-created by Philip Mitchell, Michael Barlow, Noemie Huttner-Koros & Timothy Green as part of the 2019 FirstHand Puppetry Artist Training Program
NEW WORK – WORLD PREMIERE

Big Bangs is a two-hander 'pop-up' booth style puppetry performance, created with the intention that will be performed in a festival setting. This short 20-minute new work was launched at an intimate gathering in Spare Parts' studio space on Friday, March 29.

The Last Numbat

Created by Leon Hendroff

NEW WORK – WORLD PREMIERE

Commissioned by the City of South Perth

In February 2020, a new large-scale, interactive, sculptural installation suspended from a five-metre truss will make its world premiere at the South Perth Sounds festival. The large-scale marionette numbat is controlled on two sides by up to fourteen people at a time, assisted by four performers who manipulate the puppet and offer guidance to participants as they work together as a team. *The Last Numbat* tells the story a numbat who believes they are the last of their kind and explores environmental issues and emotional themes.

Works in development

Beanstalk

Beanstalk is the darkly comic tale that is inspired by the original tale of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' but is told from the perspective of the real victim of the story: The Giant. Beanstalk looks at what it means to be seen in a negative light based purely on your external appearance. At a time in history where acceptance of difference seems to be on the increase and in the forefront of public conversation there are still many biases and discriminations. Beanstalk will ask audiences to consider how their first impressions of people affects

The creative team came together for an initial creative development to devise the work. The Giant will be played by a performer whilst Jack and others will be puppets. In a step towards playfulness and innovation, the puppets will be small and fragile, and because they are made of food, can be destroyed and eaten.

Whilst some of the themes are dark (lost love, betrayal and social stigma) there is an awful lot of fun to be had as we delve into the world of giants, cloud farming and magical gardening. Original puppetry and humorous story telling makes this work delightful, accessible and engaging for young audiences and their big people.

Beanstalk is an original puppetry work co-created by Sam Longley and Philip Mitchell that will premiere in 2020.

Ninniyok

Ninniyok is a first-time partnership between Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company and Spare Parts Puppet Theatre that will bring to life a distinctly Western Australian story of strength and connection. Inspired by the extraordinary life and Nyitiny stories of Aunty Gail Yorkshire-Selby and will tell a magical tale of a mission child who writes a new script for her life. From creating a family out of humble clothes pegs to leading her family and community with love, it is a life that bubbles over with hope. *Ninniyok* is an authentic collaboration that gives both companies permission to explore cultural and artistic territory together and create a new work of scale for the Perth Festival in 2021.

The first phase of development was supported by Country Arts WA and The Rowley Foundation.

The Man Who Planted Trees (working title)

This new work brings together an experienced and well-developed team of artists. Nick Pages Oliver, Bec Bradley, Amberly Cull, Melanie Robinson Clare Testoni and Leon Hendroff. The creative team meet for a week of creative development and set the scope for this challenging new work. The new in-theatre work for 2021 will be a landmark production for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, venturing into a musical genre as well as placing the importance of sustainability and selflessness as the heart of a performance. This adaptation of the *The Man who Planted Trees* looks at the impact one person can have through selfless acts of kindness told through the eyes of animals. It tells a story about uniting people as a community and will encourage people to plant trees. *The Man Who Planted Trees* will premiere in October 2021 and feature a gala opening night event.

Inclusion Programs

“It’s so important for arts not to be a privilege but to be a right for kids”

- Emily Grainger, Teacher

Exposure to the arts, especially for children, can positively change lives by engaging the mind, body and emotions. At Spare Parts Puppet Theatre we especially aim to engage those who may not usually have access to experience theatre performances.

The programs’ aim is to provide a window for young people to look through and experience an exciting world of creative expression and possibility, by way of high-quality puppetry performances.

General Public Season Inclusion Activities

The 2019 Inclusion Programs were developed to meet the needs of people with disability and/or mental illness and/or those experiencing social disadvantage. They allow these target groups the opportunity to have equal access to and full participation in mainstream arts in the broader community.

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre continued to offer a number of Auslan interpreted performances for *Moominpappa at Sea*, *Blueback* and *Fox*. In 2019, thanks to the continued volunteer support from Autism Association of Western Australia, the relaxed show format, aimed at supporting the needs of children and families with Autism or sensory processing issues, was also offered for each of these seasons.

FEEDBACK:

“The show made me think about my family because my family is kind. ... To always be kind no matter what”

- Audrey, student

“It gave me the idea that the ocean needs to be looked after.”

- Matthew, student

“This is one of the best theatres and things I’ve ever seen...Rated 10 out of 10 stars.”

- Student

Schools Inclusion

In 2019, in partnership with the Feilman Foundation, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre embarked on one of our most ambitious access and inclusion programs to date, reaching 21 schools across the metropolitan area. The program provided 1749 tickets and a contribution to bussing to many of the schools.

List of Schools attending as part of the 2019 Program:

- Australian Islamic College
- Beaconsfield Primary School
- Boyare Primary School
- Brookman Primary School
- Bungaree Primary School
- Caralee Community School
- Gwynne Park Primary School
- Hammond Park Catholic Primary School
- Highgate Primary School
- Hillman Primary School
- Hilton Primary School
- Leda Primary School
- Maddington Education Support Centre
- Middle Swan Primary School
- Midland Learning Academy
- Mother Teresa Catholic College
- Oberthur Primary School
- Roseworth Primary School
- South Coogee Primary School
- Spearwood Primary School
- Warnbro Community High School

FEEDBACK:

“For almost all of our students, this was their first time in a theatre. What I remember most was their faces when we walked into the theatre and while they were watching real live performers in front of them.”

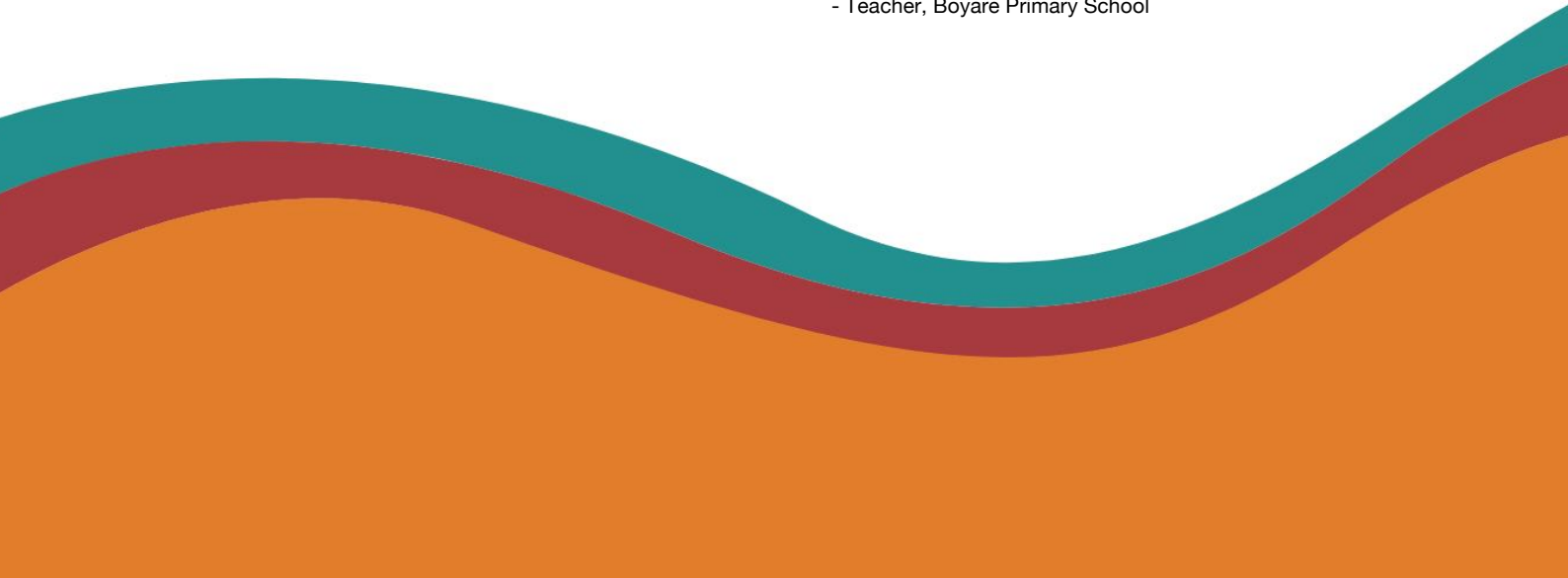
- Teacher, Boyare Primary School

“I sat with one of our students who was in a wheelchair I have never see her so excited before and wiggling about in her chair.”

- Teacher

“A high proportion of our students had never been to Fremantle, let alone to a live theatre production. This opportunity was rich with learning for them.”

- Teacher, Boyare Primary School



Fundraising and Partnerships

Existing Partnerships

2019 was the third year of our triennial sponsorship agreement with Healthway. This important partnership strengthened further in 2019 as we again demonstrated the strong alignment of values and priorities between Spare Parts Puppet Theatre and Healthway, specifically to nourish the minds and bodies of young people and consequently contribute to healthy families and communities.

This year also saw the third year of a three-year partnership with Horizon Power, which enables the Go for 2&5 Regional Schools Touring Program to be extended to the Mid-West and Gascoyne Regions, and offers further subsidised ticket prices and free workshops for these regions.

Fremantle Ports came onboard renewing their sponsorship for the Access and Inclusion program in 2019-20. Their sponsorship was directly targeted at schools facing disadvantage within the Fremantle, Rockingham and Kwinana areas. Their sponsorship will enable a number of schools that had not previously accessed performances at Spare Parts Puppet Theatre to attend in early 2020.

New Foundation Support

We welcomed the Feilman Foundation support to extend the Schools inclusion program across the broader metropolitan Perth area. The program proved to be in high demand as all the places were filled for the 2019 program in the first call for expressions of interest. Schools were offered the opportunity to attend any of the Schools performances in the 2019 season.

Volunteer Program

In 2019 a special call out was made for volunteers to assist with the presentation of *On Our Beach*. The support and enthusiasm from the volunteer community was tremendous. Volunteers contributed to all the extensive preshow activities spread through the foyer of the theatre, they help guide the audience through the theatre and backstage areas as well as providing much needed assistance to reset the 10,000 ball drop that features in the performance.

A number of longer-term backstage production volunteer placements provided assistance to the repairs and maintenance puppets and sets and scenery throughout the year.

Additionally, the Board of Management collectively volunteered more than 750 hours to the organisation.

The Staff of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre also contribute volunteer hours in attending / working at openings, weekend and evening meetings (e.g. Teachers Reference Group, Stakeholder Focus Groups, Board Meetings).

1,000+

Volunteer Hours

470+

Volunteering opportunities



Image: On Our Beach. Photo by Jessica Wyld

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

20 Champions for 2020 (Donor Circle)

Anna and Roger Dartnell
David and Fiona Mofflin
Lisa Hamilton
Phil Thick & Paula Rogers
Paul Holmes á Court
The Minderoo Foundation, Nicola Forrest
Tina Jackson

Puppet Parents (Adopt-a-puppet Program)

Platinum

Bernard Mearns
Dave Sanders
Heather Tasker (Ted, Nathan)
Kelly Carter
Mary Ruth Squire
Sam Budiselik (Eleanor, Jacob, Amelia, Charlie, Matilda)
Sue Crosse

Gold

Fremantle Rotary
Geoffrey Crosse
Gordon Havard
Jan Newman
Leeanda Paino
Max Havard
Teresa Ruane

Silver

Hon. Adele Farina MLC
Ian D MacLeod
Jennifer Kay
Jennifer Player
Julie Hamilton
Liz Tilmouth
Matilda Newman
Matthew Keogh Nexus Home Improvements
Sharlene Hayes
Sophia Hall

Bronze

Aria May
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Bobby and Maggie
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Peter and Elizabeth Conquest
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Tayah Coleman
Tommy Clements



Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS!