



**SPARE  
PARTS**  
puppet theatre

**ANNUAL REPORT**  

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**2024**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional owners and custodians of the unceded land on which we work. As we tour our work across these vast lands, we pay our respect to all First Nations elders, past and present. We celebrate their continuing connection and contribution to culture, country and community, and thank all First Nations peoples for their wisdom in caring for the land, the sky, the rivers and the sea.

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# VISION

To be internationally renowned as a Centre of Excellence in Puppetry.

# PURPOSE

Through puppetry we share stories that connect and inspire audiences across generations.

# VALUES

## 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, digital arts, dance, visual arts, music, theatre and storytelling.

## JOY

We are an energetic, fun-loving and playful company. We bring joy to our audiences offering insight and perspectives into our lives.

## INCLUSION

Our work reflects the diversity of the communities we live and present our work to. We strive to remove barriers to our work and seek opportunities to increase accessibility across performances, physical venue, employment and participation.

## CELEBRATING WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN

Through puppetry we engage with timeless and universal themes, exploring and celebrating what it is to be human. Reflecting diversity, connection, emotional literacy, our identity as Western Australians and connection to place.

## 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.

# COMPANY PILLARS

- PARTNERSHIPS AND PHILANTHROPY
- ARTIST DEVELOPMENT
- FESTIVALS AND EVENTS
- CREATIVE LEARNING
- TOURING
- DIGITAL INITIATIVES
- AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT
- IN THEATRE

# BOARD

**Dr. David Mofflin**  
(Chair)

**Lisa Hamilton**  
(Vice Chair)

**David Hansen**

**Katie Henebery**  
(from April 2024)

**Tricia Ho-Hudson**  
(from October 2024)

**Kathryn Laurentis**  
(from October 2024)

**Dr. Leah Mercer**

**Philip Mitchell**

**Nadia Tavo**

# STAFF

**Philip Mitchell**  
Artistic Director & Co-CEO

**Katie Henebery**  
Executive Director & Co-CEO

**Monique Beudoire**  
General Manager

**Michael Barlow**  
Associate Director

**Megan Fitzgerald**  
Creative Producer

**Grant Watson**  
Marketing & Communications Officer

**Ben Nelson**  
Production & Technical Officer

**Naomi Corteen**  
Learning & Engagement Officer  
(until July)

**Kausalya Vijayan Kumaran**  
Learning & Engagement Project Officer  
(from March to July)

**Harrison Lorenz-Daniel**  
Learning & Engagement Project Officer  
(from April)

**Una Minello**  
Audience & Operations Officer

**Dawn Jackson**  
Marketing & Development Officer  
(until January)

**Catherine Summers**  
Philanthropy & Sponsorship Officer  
(from April to August)

**Erin Shepherd**  
Philanthropy & Sponsorship Officer  
(from November)

**John Michael Swinbank**  
Publicist

**Karen Connolly**  
Finance Officer  
(until January)

**Martin Tunley**  
Finance Officer

Supported by:



# 2024 ARTISTS & ARTS WORKERS

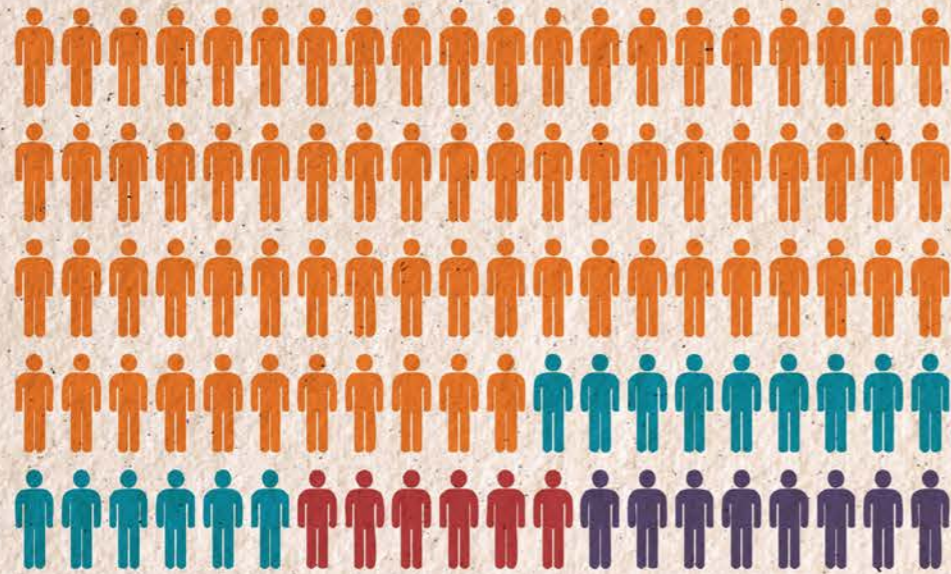
Alex Desebrock, Alicia Osyka, Amberly Cull, Amy Webb, Anna Knight, Arielle Gray, Rayma Morrison, Ben Vanderwal, Bronte Frances, Caitlin Hampson, Carmel Dean, Catherine O'Donoghue, Cecile Williams, Clare Testoni, Connie Black, Danen Alex, Danen Engelenberg, Daniel Buckle, Daniel Dosek, David Stewart, David Vikman, Dawn Jackson, Dee Waddingham, Elsa May, Em Jenkins, Emma Martin, Eza Garciano, Ffion Nutter, Fiona Martich-Osterman, Fletcher Scully, Harry Mitchell, Henry Kent, Holland Brooks, Iain Grandage, Iona McAuley, Iris Warren, Isaac Diamond, Isla Simeoni, Isobel Finnie, Izabella Day, Jack Skarratt, Jack Wilson, Jackson Harrison, Jaime Jalla, Jaimee Whirledge, Jane Davies, Janet Lee, Jesse Wood, Jessica Harlond-Kenny, Jiarui Lin, Jirka Zmitko, Joana Lavole, Joni Tham, Julia Moody, Justin Cheek, Kadence Pember, Karl Florisson, Karli Dore, Kathryn Anderson, Kristie Evelyne Smith, Kristie Smith, Kurtis Brown, Kylie Bywaters, Lara Bromfield, Laura Goodlet, Lee Buddle, Lee Neville, Leith Alexander, Leon Hendroff, Linda Oh, Louis Spencer, Lucy Birkinshaw, Lucy Nunn, Lucy Wong, Manjula Radha Krishnan, Mararo Wangai, Marie-Eve Cigna, Marlanie Haerewa, Melanie Robinson, Nadia Tavo, Nakita Bernardo, Narelle Simpson, Natasha Pearson, Nick Pages-Oliver, Oliver Clare, Oliver Hughes, Patrick O'Donoghue, Pavan Kumar Hari, Peter Young, Rachael Woodward, Rebecca Bradley, Riley Billyeald, Roisin Wallace-Nash, Rosalie Schneider, Rubeun Yorkshire, Rueben Mongoo, Sam Longley, Sam Rumpel, Samantha Bevan, Sandy McKendick, Sanjiva Margio, Shana O'Brien, Shane Adamczak, Shannon O'Neill, Shaun Johnston, Shaun Tan, Shontae Wright, Sophie Smith, Stefan Karlsson, Stephanie Jodrell, Talia Zipper, Tamara Creasey, Tao Issaro, Teresa Jakovich, Teyha Makani, Tiahna Johnson, Tristan McGuinness, Yvan Karlsson, Zac James.

# 2024 VOLUNTEERS

Adrijan Levis, Avalon Hasluck, Bethan Peters, Caleb Parsons, Cat Broom, Diana Nottle, Edith Lauk, Elaine Forrestal, Ella Firns, Emma Baker, Emma Ross, Eve de la Rie, Gina Amada, Glynis Yates, Harry Frochter, Isla Simeoni, Jan Burne, Josephine Ferstat, Katrina Chandra, Kim Livingstone, Leticia Darwin, Luke Cronstedt, Maureen Lloyd, Maxine Howell-Price, Nico Collins, Patti Alexeeff, Paul Darwin, Peter Fisher, Quinn Jones, Rosalie Schneider, Ruby Maher, Sabrina de Beer, Stephanie Toohey, Susan Gawned, Teresa Thaug, Toni Miller, Theatre Arts Students (Curtin University).

# AUDIENCE

126,624 TOTAL



76,414 metro  
6,500 national

9,048 regional  
16,000 overseas



# PUPPETRY WORKS

338 PERFORMANCES

11 new works

12 repertoire works

5 works in development

# DIGITAL

1 Puppet Lab app  
493 workshop views  
7,888 resource downloads



# TOURING

14 TOURS



# CREATIVE LEARNING

126 schools  
142 workshops  
13 events

# EMPLOYMENT

17 core team  
190 artists  
33 arts workers



# TRAINING

78 artists

# ENABLERS

19 partners  
123 donors  
36 volunteers



It has been a year of significant milestones and exciting developments for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre. Our artistic successes have been matched by strong financial performance and the expansion of key partnerships, ensuring the company's continued stability and growth.

Despite rising operational costs from managing two venues, we achieved a strong financial result, demonstrating the resilience and adaptability of our organisation. This success was bolstered by new partnerships with Aurizon, PLD, Malcom Robertson Foundation, KHA Studio and the Department of Communities, alongside expanded support from Minderoo Foundation, Creative Australia, Healthway and Hawaiian. We also thank our other partners for their continued support: Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Feilman Foundation, Goodeve Foundation, Horizon Power, HWL Ebsworth, Lotterywest, Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and Royal Agricultural Society of WA. We are so grateful to each and every partner for their part in enabling Spare Parts Puppet Theatre to expand the reach of its work into different audiences and communities around our state and nationally.

Additionally, our 20 Champions Giving Circle, which supports the creation of new work, experienced continued growth – with 6 new donors in 2024. The continued growth of our giving program reflects the dedication of our valued supporters and the quality of the artistic vision of the company.

National touring and School of Puppetry income streams saw significant increases, supporting the continued diversification of our income streams and sustainability of the organisation. Our ability to reach new audiences and strengthen our financial sustainability is a testament to the strategic planning and dedication of our leadership team.

One of the most significant achievements of the year was the State Government's commitment to funding the upgrade of the Ellie Eaton Theatre at the Claremont Showgrounds. Spare Parts Puppet Theatre will relocate its offices and performances to this venue in 2026. This project presents an extraordinary opportunity, not only for our company but

for the Western Australian arts sector as a whole. The enhanced amenities of the site will allow us to further expand our artistic programming, deepen community engagement, and create a dynamic new cultural hub.

Throughout the year, we had a focus on Board renewal, and welcomed two new Board Directors: Tricia Ho-Hudson and Kathryn Laurentis in October 2024. In December 2024, we farewelled long-serving Vice-Chair and Chair of the Finance Risk and Audit Committee, Lisa Hamilton from the Board. On behalf of staff, artists, volunteers and audiences who have engaged with the company during Lisa's long tenure, I thank her for her exceptional service to the organisation and her support. In 2025, we will continue to focus on Board renewal and plan to welcome a further two Board Directors.

Only one year into our strategic plan, we are on track to achieving many of our goals, whether that be by:

- creating more new work, employing more artists, and working toward greater representation both on and off stage;
- reaching more communities through diverse platforms and performances, through new programs such as Puppet Playtime and Marionettes and Memories that reach different sections of our community;
- improving the sustainability of the organisation through strong financial management and governance, and the establishment of a new venue where our strong business model can be maintained;
- or the continued training and employment of the artists who sustain us and who are our future.

As Chair, I extend my deepest gratitude to our Board, staff, artists, and supporters for their dedication and passion. With a strong foundation in place, we look forward to an inspiring future filled with artistic excellence and broader community impact.

**Dr. David Mofflin**  
**PhD(Cantab) BE(Hons)**  
 Chair

# REPORT FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The past year was a remarkable period of growth, creativity, and collaboration for Spare Parts Puppet Theatre. We have continued to push artistic boundaries, deliver engaging experiences for audiences, and expand our reach both nationally and internationally.

A key highlight was the presentation of three new mainstage works. *Pillow Fight* demonstrated our commitment to flexible works, allowing for adaptability in different performance settings. *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* highlighted our dedication to intergenerational storytelling and our engagement with seniors in the community. *Hometown*, our second-ever musical, was a true testament to collaboration, bringing together a diverse creative team to adapt Shaun Tan's evocative work into a rich theatrical experience.

We also premiered *The Whale*, a new Festival and Event work, in partnership with Curtin University Theatre Studies, Bondi Pavilion, and the City of Busselton. This project exemplifies the strength of our innovative model and our ability to deliver large-scale interactive performances.

Artist training remained a core focus this year, with a sold-out masterclass by Joe Blanck from A Blanck Canvas. This event attracted participants from across Australia and strengthened our relationship with A Blanck Canvas, who later built puppets and sets for *Hometown*. Additionally, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our partnership with WAAPA, culminating in sold-out performances at Victoria Hall in Fremantle. This year also saw the launch of a new sector initiative that trained artists from various companies across Perth using sets of 3D-printed training puppets, an exciting innovation by Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

Our Creative Learning programs continued to flourish. The newly launched Puppet Lab, supported by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Creative Learning Partnerships program, led to the development of a world-first puppetry app and a workshop tour into remote schools across the state. Additionally, our Schools Tour expanded with two extra weeks of metropolitan touring, whilst Puppet Playtime's audience continued to grow and its touring footprint continued to expand with the support of the Minderoo Foundation.

On a broader scale, this year marked our first large-scale national tour since COVID, with *The One Who Planted Trees* touring ten major venues across Australia. We also re-entered the international stage with *String Symphony*, performing at Auckland Live and as part of the International Society of Performing Arts' Perth Congress in 2024.

We are incredibly proud of these achievements and grateful to our staff, artists, partners, supporters, and importantly, our audiences for their continued support and enthusiasm. As we look to the future, we remain committed to delivering joyful experiences that inspire and connect communities.

**Philip Mitchell**  
 Artistic Director / Co-CEO

**Katie Henebery**  
 Executive Director / Co-CEO



A riotous comedy about biscuit banditry, puppet pandemonium and the unbreakable bonds of family.



# PILLOW FIGHT

## NEW WORK WORLD PREMIERE

*Pillow Fight* is an agile and joyous work that explores multiple truths and the conflict associated with being right. Building on the successful process in creating the critically acclaimed *Beanstalk*, Sam and Philip devised a work based in collaboration with our most experienced designer and composer along with our incredibly talented puppeteers, Shane, Alicia and Nadia.

It is the tale of an argument with two sides and three truths. It all started when great grandma's biscuit barrel was found broken. *Pillow Fight* was set in the familiar surrounds of a childhood bedroom. The usual trappings of growing up have endured time; bunk beds, teddy bears and old forgotten toys.

The bunk beds themselves became puppetry portals to the battle ground to prove exactly what did happen that awful day when Great Grandmas biscuit barrel met its fractured fate.

Shane's Karate Kat and Alicia's Teddy get cast in a conflict that is not of their making and that they can't escape from. The softness of a pillow is contrasted against the brutality with which it is wielded.

*Pillow Fight* delighted audiences with a huge cast of exquisitely handcrafted puppets, a fast-paced and hilarious story featuring epic worlds of magic, knights, spacemen, and monsters.

★★★★★ "From a frolicking jaunt into magical forests to a raucous adventure in outer space and finally a courtroom denouement, the puppets in the show cover a vast terrain and take the viewer on a joyous journey."

- ARTSHUB

### DIRECTOR AND CO-CREATOR

Philip Mitchell

### WRITER AND CO-CREATOR

Sam Longley

**DESIGNER** Leon Hendroff

**COMPOSER** Lee Buddle

**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Megan Fitzgerald

### PUPPET MAKERS

Leon Hendroff, Jackson Harrison, Shane Adamczak

### PERFORMERS

Nadia Tavo, Shane Adamczak

### PRODUCTION AND STAGE MANAGER

Catherine O'Donoghue

### CO-CREATORS

Alicia Osyka, Shane Adamczack

### SEASON DATES:

General Public 9 to 26 January

### PERFORMANCES:

General Public 32

### AUDIENCE:

General Public 3,222

"A hectic 50 minutes that provokes screaming laughter from its young audience, this is a lovely tale of family bonds and some fabulous imagination."

- STAGE WHISPERS

Supported by:





The best memories are the ones that are shared.

# WILFRID GORDON MCDONALD PARTRIDGE

## NEW WORK WORLD PREMIERE

Adapted from the book by Mem Fox & Julie Vivas

Set in an old people's home, this heart-warming story follows the affectionate bond between a young child, Wilfrid, and his favourite old person, the 96-year-old Miss Nancy. With cheeky humour and subtle feeling the performance spoke to the young, the elderly and everyone in between.

A unique and interactive performance, Spare Parts' adaptation welcomed seniors and grandparents onto the stage to become crucial players in the story, sharing their real memories and wisdom, and creating a show that children cherished by featuring their own family or community members on stage.

Exploring the power of memories as the threads that connect us to each other, this story is a true celebration of intergenerational friendship that brought laughter, inspired joy and left ripples of connectedness in the audience long after the performance.

**"It was wonderful! Everything about it was superb. The acting, the puppetry, the shadow work. They really honoured the story, I had tears! Run, don't walk to see this show."**

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

**"Having seen nearly every Spare Parts Puppet production for a quarter of a century or so, Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge is probably my personal favourite. A warm hug of show, it is certain to delight children and adults alike."**

- STAGE WHISPERS

### DIRECTOR AND CO-CREATOR

Rebecca Bradley

### CO-CREATOR AND MENTOR

Michael Barlow

**DESIGNER** Sandy McKendrick

**COMPOSER** Melanie Robinson

**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Lucy Birkinshaw

**CONSULTANT** Alex Desebrock

### PUPPET & PROP MAKERS

Sandy McKendrick, Sanjiva Margio,

Leon Hendroff, Jirka Zmitko, Rosalie

Schneider, Ben Nelson

### PERFORMERS

Tamara Creasey, Michael Barlow

### STAGE MANAGER & PRODUCTION

### ASSISTANTS

Catherine O'Donoghue and Riley

Billyeald

### CONTRIBUTING DEVISORS

Sanjiva Margio, Kylie Bywaters, Sandy

McKendrick, Alex Desebrock, Melanie

Robinson

### SEASON DATES:

School Season 11 to 15 March

General Public 30 March – 13 April

### PERFORMANCES:

33

School Season 11

General Public 22

### AUDIENCE:

3,775

School Season 1,411

General Public 2,364

Supported by:





PHOTO CREDIT: PHILIP MITCHELL

# HARE BRAIN

## REPERTOIRE WORK

A twisted spin on Aesop's *The Tortoise and the Hare*

Created in 2002 as the first work Philip Mitchell made with the company, *Hare Brain* is an example of how robust our repertoire business model is and the great return on investment our works provide.

*Hare Brain* tells the tale of Harry and Toulouse who are in a slapstick race against time to find the perfect story that will fit the perfect toy. A story as relevant today as it was 20 years ago, debating the benefits of hare thinking or tortoise thinking in our fast-paced lives of technology and instant communication.

“Loved the show - such refreshing characters and awesome use of everyday items. My favourite SPPT show so far! Had my daughter (7) in stitches!”

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

**DIRECTOR** Philip Mitchell  
**WRITER** Justin Cheek  
**DESIGNER** Cecile Williams  
**COMPOSER** Lee Buddle  
**PUPPET AND SET CONSTRUCTION** Cecile Williams, Jiri Zmitko  
**PERFORMERS** Daniel Dosek, Oliver Hughes  
**STAGE MANAGER** Catherine O'Donoghue

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**SEASON DATES:**

School Season	24 to 28 June
General Public	29 June to 13 July

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**PERFORMANCES:**

School Season	6
General Public	26

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**AUDIENCE:**

School Season	891	<b>3,408</b>
General Public	2,283	

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“A fast, frenetic, and fantastical production drawn from Aesop's fable, it had youngsters screaming advice and giggling throughout its evening premiere.”

- STAGE WHISPERS

Supported by:





PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHEN HEATH

# THE MURMURATION OF LOST BIRDS

## NEW WORK WORLD PREMIERE

Presented with Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts

A captivating journey of visual theatre, the flight of the imagination, and the call of home

In the tenth year of an inspiring partnership with the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, 3rd Year Performance Making students collaborated with Spare Parts' Associate Director Michael Barlow to create an evocative new work of visual theatre.

A soaring flight of the imagination, *the murmuration of lost birds* was a collection of poignant and humorous stories inspired by the journeys birds take across the globe, over seas both sparkling and dark, and through skies alive with birdsong. Racing against the dying light, their cries carry the weight of untold stories, as they unerringly heed the call of home.

Drawing from the rich symbolism of bird stories with their power to express our sometimes contradictory longing for freedom and belonging, audiences took warmly to a performance that stirred their own wanderlust - and yearning for a flock to call home.

**“Beautifully conceived, designed, and performed, this is one of those unexpected gems that grabs you from the opening moments and doesn’t let go.”**

- PERTH THEATRE REVIEWS

**“The Murmuration of Lost Birds, with its themes of young birds leaving the nest and flying off into an uncertain future, was particularly poignant, and I felt privileged to witness this charming cohort’s last ever performance together”**

- STAGE WHISPERS

**DIRECTOR** Michael Barlow

**WRITERS**

Marie-Eve Cigna, Laura Goodlet, Henry Kent, Natasha Pearson, Rueben Mongoo, Roisin Wallace-Nash

**SOUND**

Oliver Hughes, Tiahna Johnson, Natasha Pearson, Sam Rumpel

**PERFORMERS**

Em Jenkins, Fletcher Scully, Iris Warren, Tiahna Johnson, Sam Rumpel, Talia Zipper, Kurtis Brown, Oliver Clare, Izabella Day, Isobel Finnie, Laura Goodlet, Oliver Hughes, Henry Kent, Anna Knight, Jiarui Lin, Lucy Nunn, Natasha Pearson, Roisin Wallace-Nash, Shontae Wright

**PUPPET DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

The Cast

**PRODUCER** Teresa Jakovich

**LIGHTING DESIGNER AND STAGE**

**MANAGER** Isla Simeoni

**CREATIVE ASSISTANT** Janet Lee

**MOVEMENT TRAINING** Frances Barbe

**VOCAL TRAINING** Julia Moody

**SEASON DATES:**

General Public 8 to 9 November

**PERFORMANCES:**

General Public 3

**AUDIENCE:**

General Public 325

Supported by:





An unforgettable exploration of family, identity, and belonging.

# HOMETOWN

## NEW WORK WORLD PREMIERE

Inspired by a story by Shaun Tan

*Hometown* is a new puppet musical set in a world of extraordinary creatures and awe-inspiring landscapes. Audiences embarked on an epic journey through the eyes of a young girl as she faces a life-altering decision: stay with the family who has lovingly raised her, or venture into the unknown to discover a new world and a family she's yet to meet.

Brought to life by the award-winning creative team that created *The One Who Planted Trees*, *Hometown* is a masterful collaboration with one of Australia's most celebrated graphic novelists. It weaves a visually stunning tale about connection, belonging, and the power of love to conquer fear and break down prejudices.

"It is a challenging, inventive and thoughtful journey into identity and belonging, and is one of the most beautiful and engaging shows I've seen at Spare Parts for a long time."

- POST NEWSPAPER

"I absolutely loved this show, the puppets/puppetry/lighting/music were mesmerisingly beautiful. The storyline was gorgeous and heartwarming. I wish everyone could see this."

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

**ORIGINAL STORY** Shaun Tan  
**ADAPTING WRITERS** Amberly Cull, Nick Pages Oliver  
**DIRECTOR** Philip Mitchell  
**COMPOSER** Melanie Robinson  
**DESIGNER** Leon Hendroff  
**SOUND DESIGNER** Lee Buddle  
**MUSICIANS**

Iain Grandage, Karl Florisson  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Megan Fitzgerald  
**PERFORMERS** Bec Bradley, Nick Pages-Oliver, Amberly Cull

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**SEASON DATES:**

School Season 25 November to 6 December

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**PERFORMANCES:**

School Season 13

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**AUDIENCE:**

School Season 1,877

Supported by:



# REACH FOR THE SKY

Designed specifically for early years, this immersive puppetry experience invites young audiences to explore emotions and the diverse ways we perceive the world. Through non-verbal storytelling, two puppeteers guide the audience into a space of play, participation and imaginary worlds. One character moves with grace and acceptance, embracing life as it comes. The other character finds the world a little more challenging, often encountering moments of clumsiness or distraction, yet possesses a vivid and creative imagination.

A blend of puppetry, clowning, music, and sensory engagement will inspire children aged 3 to 6 to believe that their imagination can take them anywhere – from floating above the clouds in a hot air balloon to swimming with whales under the sea.

*Reach for the Sky* will have its world premiere season in November 2025.

**CO-CREATOR & DIRECTOR**

Philip Mitchell  
**CO-CREATOR** Rebecca Bradley  
**DESIGNER** Leon Hendroff  
**COMPOSER** Pavan Kumar Hari  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Lucy Birkinshaw  
**CONTRIBUTING DEVISOR**  
 Issac Diamond

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**Weeks of creative development**      2  
**Participating artists**                      6  
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**SUPPORTED BY:**



# WANDABAA GAAY GUWALI

*Wandabaa Gaay Guwali* is ghost stories in Gamilaraay language. The work is led by artist Nadia Tavo, a proud Gamilaroi and Bigambul woman hailing from north-western NSW who now calls Whadjuk Noongar Boodjar home.

*Wandabaa Gaay Guwali* is a unique work that invites an intimate audience into an immersive world of storytelling and puppetry. It is designed to be performed outside at night, and replicate the atmosphere of the campsite, where families come together and ghost stories are shared.

With the audience sharing the inside of the tent with a performer storyteller, the visual story unfolds on the walls of the tent. The work creates an immersive atmosphere that absorbs and embraces its audience, in story, fun and a few tingling goosebumps. *Wandabaa Gaay Guwali* is the first work in our 40+ year history to be led by a First Nations artist with a majority First Nations team.

We aim to have its world premiere presentation in 2026.

**CREATIVE LEAD, CREATOR AND**

**DIRECTOR** Nadia Tavo  
**LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL CONSULTANT** Fiona Martich  
**SPIRITUAL CONSULTANT**  
 Rayma Morrison  
**DESIGNER** Shana O'Brien  
**DRAMATURG** Zac James  
**PERFORMER/CO CREATORS**  
 Oliver Hughes, Teyha Makani  
**PERFORMER** Marlanie Haerewa  
**COMPOSER** Melanie Robinson  
**PUPPETRY DIRECTORS/MENTORS**  
 Michael Barlow, Philip Mitchell

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**Weeks of creative development**      1  
**Participating artists**                      12  
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**SUPPORTED BY:**



PG. 22 PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL BARLOW



PHOTO CREDIT: MICHAEL BARLOW

# LEVEL UP!

*Level Up!* is a work exploring the convergence of digital gaming and puppetry. The work will be staged in a computer game exploring augmented reality technology in live performance. Thematically exploring our desire to escape reality through the construction of powerful versions of ourselves online. While celebrating the beauty and endless possibility that can be found in this imagined reality.

As technology advances at a phenomenal rate, the barriers to virtual escape are practically non-existent, all you need is a phone and an internet connection and entire worlds await. These worlds offer connection and relationships which can be real and affirming, but there are cautionary tales to be told and a reminder to never lose sight of the adventure waiting in the real world.

*Level Up!* will have its world premiere season in March 2026.

**DIRECTOR/WRITER** Yvan Karlsson  
**DESIGNER** Leon Hendroff  
**DESIGN ASSISTANT** Nakita Bernardo  
**COMPOSER** Tao Issaro  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Peter Young  
**AV DESIGNER** Mark Haslam  
**CONTRIBUTING DEVISORS**  
 Lucy Wong & Tristan McGuiness  
**PUPPETRY MENTOR**  
 Michael Barlow

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**Weeks of creative development** 1  
**Participating artists** 8  
 -----

**SUPPORTED BY:**

Goodeve Foundation **20** CHAMPIONS GIVING CIRCLE

# THE WHALE

A large-scale marionette whale sits inside a massive truss structure. It moves majestically as the community come together to manipulate the whale, assisting on its migration down the coastline. Surrounding the whale is a menagerie of sea creatures hanging from a connected truss structure. The community will also have the opportunity to bring these creatures to life, coming together to help them swim through an immersive underwater world.

As the sun sets the internal lighting within the whale and creatures illuminate and surrounding lighting envelops the whale, creatures and fantastical world they create, adding a spectacular visual element that takes this work to the next level. All the while a beautifully originally composed score, soundscape and bespoke voice overs will take audiences on a sonic journey of migration and myth.

*The Whale* had it's world premiere presentation in September.

**DESIGNER** Leon Hendroff  
**COMPOSERS**  
 Melanie Robinson & Iain Grandage  
**DRAMATURG** Nadia Tavo  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Lucy Birkinshaw  
**CREATIVE PRODUCER**  
 Megan Fitzgerald  
**PUPPETRY DIRECTOR** Philip Mitchell  
**BUILD MANAGER** Ben Nelson  
**LEAD SOFT FABRICATOR** Ffion Nutter

-----  
**Participating artists** 11  
**Participating Students** 8  
 -----

**CO-COMMISSIONED BY:**  
 Curtin University, City of Busselton, Waverley Council – Bondi Pavilion

**SUPPORTED BY:**

Goodeve Foundation **20** CHAMPIONS GIVING CIRCLE



PHOTO CREDIT: TASHI HALL



PHOTO CREDIT: LIANG XU

# PUPPET PLAYTIME

Puppet Playtime uses the rich creative potential of puppetry to nurture the development of the whole child in their early years of development. The program develops key skills in young children including language and communication and fine motor skills, while nurturing social and emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers are integral to the experience, as they create and learn alongside their child in meaningful, relationship-building conversations and play.

Puppet Playtime follows a simple format. LISTEN to artists as they read a popular children story, performing with puppetry. CREATIVE PLAY activities explore themes from the story and children create something to take home to treasure. Children then PLAY with their new creation, through sounds, music, games and other interactive play.

Puppet Playtime took place in our Creative Learning Centre in Fremantle and was facilitated by Spare Parts performers. Every month from February to November, Puppet Playtime sessions were delivered for up to 15 children per session (plus caregivers), with a different children’s picture book featured each month.

**“We had such a good time. My son loved the whole experience: the puppet show, the post show activities and the people involved. Everyone is so kind and helpful. I can’t wait to go to the next one!”**

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

The program has been designed in close partnership with The Kids Research Institute (formally Telethon Kids Institute). Spare Parts has been guided by their Social and Emotional Wellbeing Through the Arts (SEW-Arts) resource to ensure the social and emotional wellbeing of children aged 3 to 5 is the central focus of Puppet Playtime. We collaborate with The Kids on the design of session content, parent resources and evaluation.

We have been thrilled with the level of participation and engagement in Puppet Playtime in 2024, with most months selling out (82% average capacity across the year).

Sessions	90
Attendance	2,836
Participating artists	7

**SUPPORTED BY:**



**“Engaging and entertaining – just the right amount of sitting and doing for the age group. LOVED the performance – it was outstanding!”**

- AUDIENCE MEMBER

# PUPPET PLAYTIME

## FEBRUARY

*Ten Tiny Things* by Meg McKinlay and Kyle Hughes-Odgers

**Performer** Harrison Lorenz-Daniel  
**SEW Focus** Mindfulness in Action

## MARCH

*Littlelight* by Meg McKinlay and Kyle Hughes-Odgers

**Performer** David Vikman  
**SEW focus** Trying New Things

## APRIL

*Thelma the Unicorn* by Aaron Blabey

**Performer** David Vikman  
**SEW focus** Feeling Safe - Body Image

## MAY

*Where The Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak

**Performer** David Vikman  
**SEW focus** Expressing Emotions

## JUNE

*The Heartbeat of The Land* by Cathy Freeman with Coral Vass & Tanya Harricks

**Performer** Nadia Tavo  
**SEW focus** Sensory Awareness

## JULY

*The Bunyip of Berkeley's Creek* by Jenny Wagner

**Performer** Joni Tham  
**SEW focus** Coping with Criticism

## AUGUST

*Maybe* a story adapted from a Taoist short story (traditional)

**Performer** Joni Tham  
**SEW focus** Mindfulness

## SEPTEMBER

*Beneath* by Cori Doerrfeld

**Performer** Harrison Lorenz-Daniel  
**SEW focus** Perspective Taking

## OCTOBER

*The Bunyip and the Stars* by Adam Duncan

**Performer** Nadia Tavo  
**SEW focus** Developing self-awareness – Emotions/Expressing Emotions

## NOVEMBER

*Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson

**Performer** Harrison Lorenz-Daniel  
**SEW focus** Doing What I Value

# MARIONETTES & MEMORIES

Across January and February Spare Parts invited seniors and older folk to join us for a cuppa, try their hand at puppeteering, engage in conversation, and share memories. Marionettes & Memories sessions began with our Associate Director Michael Barlow sharing the captivating history of marionettes and showcasing select pieces from the Spare Parts' collection. Participants were then invited to try their hand at manipulating our exquisite puppets before sharing a story or precious memory relating to a special object they had brought from home.

## PERFORMERS

Michael Barlow, Kylie Bywaters

-----  
**Sessions** 10  
**Attendance** 105  
 -----

## SUPPORTED BY:



# PULLING THE STRINGS

Spare Parts invited theatre enthusiasts and curious high school students to peek behind the curtain to gain behind the scenes insight into the technical operations of our productions. Participants were guided through the process of making a new puppet theatre performance, learnt about specialist theatre equipment and gained an insight into how to cue music, sound effects and lighting changes – with a tour of the technical facilities and backstage areas.

## FACILITATORS

Catherine O'Donoghue, Ben Nelson, Megan Fitzgerald

-----  
**Sessions** 3  
**Attendance** 26  
 -----





PHOTO CREDIT: PETER CARNLEY ANGLICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

# PUPPET LAB

In 2024, our Digital Puppetry Program got a new name: Puppet Lab! Building on the foundation laid in 2023, we worked extensively with app developers Intenvix to create a truly innovative app that combines state-of-the-art technology with creative learning outcomes. Collaborating with WA's leading Teaching Artists, we developed a new workshop designed to complement the app, for delivery in communities and schools statewide.

Following a rigorous pilot period, working with schools across Boorloo (Perth), we took Puppet Lab on the road, bringing our workshop and technology to schools throughout regional WA. Additionally, 2024 saw the building of a research partnership with the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Digital Child. We're eager to work with researchers to evaluate our Puppet Lab program and affirm the positive potential of digital technology in the future of creative arts and learning.

**Puppet Lab Pilot:**

Schools	4
Workshops	8
Participants	184

**SUPPORTED BY:**



# ONLINE WORKSHOPS

On Spare Parts' website are free online workshops offering a variety of DIY puppetry content that covers multiple styles and techniques. Five workshops are available covering Shadow Puppets, Hand Puppets, Origami Puppets, Garden Puppets and Make a Toy Theatre. All are designed to be completed in simple steps using minimal materials.

To round out Spare Parts' growing digital puppetry offerings, our series of videos exploring basic puppetry styles has seen continued relevance, with nearly 8,000 views over 2024. These videos are a simple and fun introduction to the diverse styles of puppetry and object performance and have applications to creative learning classrooms and beyond!

ONLINE WORKSHOPS	5
EPISODES	15
VIEWS	493

ONLINE RESOURCES	6
VIEWS	7,888



# SCHOOLS TOUR

In partnership with Healthway, PLD, Horizon Power, The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation and Hawaiian, Spare Parts toured *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* for 14 weeks to 50 regional, remote and metro schools, travelling more than 8,500 kilometres, performing for 6,974 students, educators and family members. This is an extraordinary achievement for a company of our size; we thank schools across WA for warmly welcoming us to their community.

The tour delivered highly impactful community engagement. This was due to grandparents, seniors and older folk from the local community playing characters from the retirement home in *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge*! Across the tour, a total of 400 local seniors participated in a 30 minute memory sharing workshop before joining our puppeteers onstage for the performance. It was very special for the students to see people from their own community perform and share their memories (often about local matters!).

Spare Parts enriched the students' learning experience by providing teachers with a *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* Creative Learning Pack, with classroom activities exploring themes from the story and links to the curriculum. Following the performance, students had the opportunity to ask performers about the work, story and craft of puppetry. In addition, the performers facilitated 38 workshops with 710 students, teaching puppet making and object theatre.

**We are still on a high from the show yesterday! We have had wonderful feedback from students, staff and our elderly residents at Parkside. The performance really was theatre making at it's best; rich and rewarding on so many levels. In particular, the way in which the seniors were involved in the performance was very moving. Staff commented that they had more than a few tears. Students were in awe of the puppets and magic that is Drama.**

- TEACHER

## PERFORMERS

Michael Barlow, Tamara Creasey

-----  
**TOUR DATES:** 20 March to 2 August  
 -----

**SCHOOLS & CENTRES VISITED:** 51  
 Regional 36  
 Metro 15  
 -----

**PERFORMANCES:** 61  
 Regional 40  
 Metro 21  
 -----

**PERFORMANCE ATTENDANCE:** 7,453  
 Regional 3,774  
 Metro 3,679  
 -----

**WORKSHOPS:** 38  
 -----

**WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION:** 656  
 -----

## SUPPORTED BY:



**“The puppetry was just incredible, the students were transfixed by the performance. It was thought-provoking and created great discussion about memories and old age afterwards.”**

- TEACHER

# SCHOOLS TOUR

Schools and centres visited as part of our *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* Go for 2&5 Regional Schools Tour:

Cervantes Primary School	Hope Christian College	Nulsen Primary School
Cadoux Primary School	Bunbury Cathedral Grammar	Condingup Primary School
Koorda Primary School	South Bunbury Primary	Scadden Primary School
Dowerin District High School	School	Norseman District High
Kondinin Primary School	Boyanup Primary School	School
Hyden Primary School	Vasse Primary School	Kambalda West District High
Lake King Primary School	Margaret River Independent	School
Newdegate Primary School	School	Eastern Goldfields Education
Lake Grace District High	Gathered Organics	Support Centre
School	Homeschool Group	Menzies Community School
Nyabing Primary School	Great Southern Grammar	Mount Magnet District High
Yealering Primary School	Parklands School	School
Pingelly Primary School	Jerramungup DHS	Carnarvon Community
Yarloop Primary School	Esperance Education	College
River Valley Primary School	Support Centre	Shark Bay School

Schools and centres visited as part of our *Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge* metro schools tour:

Bicton Primary School	Melville Primary School	Victoria Park Primary School
Greenmount Primary School	White Gum Valley Primary	Beechboro Primary School
Floreat Park Primary School	North Morley Primary School	Weld Square Primary School
Darlington Primary School	West Coast Language	Rivervale Primary School
Gosnells Don Russell	Development Centre	Anzac Terrace Primary
Performing Arts Centre	Bertram Primary	School



# PUPPET PLAYTIME TOUR

In November, Spare Parts toured our *Thelma the Unicorn* Puppet Playtime session to 16 communities in Perth, the Southwest and Great Southern regions. After a sellout season at our Short Street Creative Learning Centre in April, we were excited to share this story with communities across Western Australia.

**PERFORMERS**

David Vikman, Gala Shevtsov, Bronte Frances

<b>TOTAL COMMUNITIES:</b>	<b>16</b>
Regional	8
Metro	8

<b>TOTAL SESSIONS:</b>	<b>30</b>
Regional	15
Metro	15

<b>TOTAL PARTICIPATION:</b>	<b>565</b>
Regional	248
Metro	317

**SUPPORTED BY:**



# PUPPET LAB TOUR

In October, Spare Parts toured to regional schools in the Wheatbelt, Mid West, and Southwest to deliver our Puppet Lab workshop. After an expansive development period throughout early 2024, we were thrilled to take our new app and workshop across Western Australia. Puppet Lab connected rural and regional students with innovative digital technologies that allowed them to reflect on the ecology of spaces near and far, translating them into digital puppets and new characters. We're excited to build on the success of this tour with future regional Puppet Lab engagements.

**TEACHING ARTISTS**

Harrison Lorenz-Daniel, Rachael Woodward, Stefan Karlsson

<b>Schools</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Workshops</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Participants</b>	<b>306</b>

**SUPPORTED BY:**



# NATIONAL TOUR

*The One Who Planted Trees* is an inspirational story that proves just how much one person can do and will have you humming out of the theatre, pulling out the spade and watering plants into the ground.

## PERFORMERS

Amberly Cull, Bec Bradley, Nick Pages  
Oliver

## WRITERS

Amberly Cull, Nick Pages Oliver

**DIRECTOR** Philip Mitchell

**CO CREATOR** Bec Bradley

**DESIGNER** Leon Hendroff

## SONGS & MUSICAL ARRANGEMENT

Melanie Robinson, Carmel Dean

## SOUND DESIGN AND RECORDING

Lee Buddle

## MUSICIANS

Iain Grandage, Harry Mitchell, Linda Oh,  
Ben Vanderwal, Melanie Robinson

## DIGITAL DESIGNER AND ANIMATION

Clare Testoni

**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Kristie Smith

## PUPPET AND PROP MAKER

Leon Hendroff, Jackson Harrison, Jesse  
Wood

**TOUR PRODUCER** Megan Fitzgerald

## TOUR PRODUCTION MANAGER

Ben Nelson

**TOUR STAGE MANAGER** Jack Wilson

-----  
**TOUR DATES:** 22 April to 29 June  
-----

## LOCATIONS:

Queens Park Theatre Geraldton, Red  
Earth Arts Precinct Karratha, Darwin  
Entertainment Centre, Cairns Performing  
Arts Centre, Capitol Theatre Tamworth,  
Glasshouse Port Macquarie, Manning  
Entertainment Centre, Arts House Wyong,  
Bunjil Place Naree Warren.

-----  
**PERFORMANCES:** 23  
-----

**AUDIENCE:** 5,500  
-----

## SUPPORTED BY:





PHOTO CREDIT: LOUISE COGHILL

# SCHOOL OF PUPPETRY

Our School of Puppetry program encompasses a variety of workshops designed to connect with communities young and old across schools and the broader WA community. For years, the core of School of Puppetry has been our puppet making and performing workshops. This year, we continued to deliver these across the state in both our free-flow and standard formats.

In 2024, we expanded School of Puppetry by integrating our innovative Puppet Playtime and Marionettes and Memories programs.

**“Just wanted to pass on a massive thank you for organising our visit today. You guys have been amazing to work with and we had a great visit today! Thank you as well to Joni for inspiring our kids and helping them be creative!”**

- BOYUP BROOK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Workshops	77
Communities	35
Participants	2,518
Teaching Artists	10

**“Thank you so much for being a part of the Mandurah Arts Festival this year. It’s been wonderful having SPPT part of our program once again. The Hand Puppets workshops were really well received by those who attended. We’ve received one comment via our survey that said it was “Very fun and engaging for everyone that attended”**

- CITY OF MANDURAH

# PUPPET PACKS

Each Do-It-Yourself Puppet Pack includes an eight page booklet providing a history of puppetry, easy to follow making / performing instructions, a fun activities page, and an easy to cut out and assemble template. There are currently four puppetry packs in our collection: Shadow Puppets, Toy Theatre, Carnival of the Animals and Finger Puppets. They are a favourite merchandise purchase for audiences after seeing a Spare Parts performance!

Packet packs sold	127
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PHOTO CREDIT: KAIFU DENG

# FESTIVALS & EVENTS

Our Festival and Event works range from large scale interactive puppets, experiential interactive works, roving entertainment, to puppet making workshops for families to share together. These public performances are the perfect complement to our in-theatre works, as they reach audiences that may not usually attend traditional theatre.

<b>Total events delivered</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Total attendance</b>	<b>81,370</b>

In 2024 Spare Parts delighted audiences with the following Festival & Events works at Curtin University’s Kids on Campus (WA), City of Albany (WA), Yagan Square Relaunch (WA), City of Belmont (WA), Joondalup Little Feet Festival (WA), Auckland (NZ), Werribee Winter Festival (VIC), International Society for the Performing Arts Showcase (WA) and Gidgegannup Show (WA), All Saints College (WA) and Perth Royal Show (WA).

## THE LAST NUMBAT

*The Last Numbat* is a large-scale interactive performance installation that uses puppetry to explore themes of connection and the sustainability of our natural environment.

<b>Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>3,300</b>

## THE BROLGAS

Named after the Australian crane, *Brolga* features a pair of sparkling roving rod-controlled bird puppets that move gracefully above the crowd.

<b>Events</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>6,000</b>

## THE HIVE

*The Hive* explores themes of connection, teamwork, and sustainability, enlightening both young people and adults about the process of pollination and how bees work together for a common goal.

<b>Events</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>6,000</b>

## STRING SYMPHONY

*String Symphony* is a large-scale interactive marionette installation that invites audience members to step into the role of puppeteer and help bring the puppet to life.

<b>Events</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>9,800</b>

## THE GREAT AUSSIE SHEEP MUSTER

It’s the annual sheep muster and there is quite a mob to be mustered!

<b>Events</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>4,000</b>

# A SHOW OF HANDS

Spare Parts was delighted to once again be part of the Perth Royal Show in September. A Show of Hands inspired creative play, sparked imagination and encouraged children to explore the Perth Royal Show in new ways... with hand puppets! Families were welcomed into the Ellie Eaton Theatre to watch our bare-hand puppetry film *What Will I Do Next?* then play in sensory dioramas, including a scene from the Show.

**FILM CO-CREATOR & PERFORMER**  
Jessica Harlond-Kenny  
**FILM CO-CREATOR & VIDEOGRAPHER**  
Michael Barlow  
**FILM COMPOSER & SOUND DESIGNER**  
Melanie Robinson  
**CO-CREATORS**  
Philip Mitchell, Michael Barlow, Ben Nelson, Megan Fitzgerald  
**TEACHING ARTISTS**  
Bronte Frances, Jaimee Whirlledge, Jaime Jalla, Joni Tham, Harrison Lorenz-Daniel, Oli Hughes  
**DIORAMA BUILDERS**  
Ben Nelson, Jesse Wood, Ffion Nutter

-----  
Events 1  
Attendance 30,720  
-----

# THE WHALE

## NEW WORK WORLD PREMIERE

*The Whale* is our brand-new, immersive puppet experience designed by Leon Hendroff and brought to life by Spare Parts and Curtin University Theatre Arts students. The performance centres around a large-scale marionette whale that sits inside a truss structure, moving majestically as if migrating down the coastline. Surrounding the whale is a collection of fantastical sea creatures. Audiences help bring these magnificent creatures to life as they swim through an immersive underwater world.

**CREATOR/ DESIGNER** Leon Hendroff  
**COMPOSERS**  
Iain Grandage & Melanie Robinson  
**DRAMATURG** Nadia Tavo  
**LIGHTING DESIGNER** Lucy Birkinshaw  
**CREATIVE PRODUCER** Megan Fitzgerald  
**PUPPETRY DIRECTOR** Philip Mitchell  
**BUILD MANAGER** Ben Nelson  
**LEAD SOFT FABRICATOR** Ffion Nutter

-----  
Events 1  
Attendance 7,000  
-----

**CO-COMMISSIONED BY:**  
Curtin University, City of Busselton, Waverley Council – Bondi Pavilion

**SUPPORTED BY:**

Goodeve Foundation **20** CHAMPIONS GIVING CIRCLE

Stories relating to the mythologies, legends and histories of whales, the oceans and the seas are played as voice over narration, giving audiences a deeper and richer insight into the significance that the ocean and all its creatures play in the natural balance of our precious coastline. These narrations can be adapted to the local site of presentation with support of a Spare Parts dramaturg. This means local artists and community can collaborate and contribute by sharing their own stories of significance that become part of the soundscape and voiceover for their presentation.



PHOTO CREDIT: TASHI HALL



# ARTIST IN RESIDENCY

Our Artist in Residence program provides an impactful career opportunity for emerging to mid-career theatre artists in WA. The program offers artists a two-week residency at Spare Parts in Fremantle, providing financial support, access to studio space, company resources, and assistance from artistic and production staff to develop an original puppetry work. After a highly competitive application process, two artists were selected for the 2024 program whose projects explore fearless and imaginative puppetry works.

**Louis Spencer** and his collaborators planned to explore the meeting point of (and develop skills in) clowning, object theatre and physical comedy. Louis' residency was deferred to May 2025.

Participating artists	6
Weeks of creative development	2

**Jane Davies** and her collaborators explored the possibilities of using shadow puppetry in combination with pre-recorded animation and live projected imagery. Her residency had a specific focus on technical skills, including the use of tools like projectors and laser cutters. Jane's aim was to develop and share these techniques through workshops with First Nations children in the Great Southern, culminating in performances that celebrate their local stories and culture.

# WAAPA PUPPETRY UNIT

2024 marked the 10-year anniversary of our partnership with the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) to deliver specialised puppetry training to graduating Performance Making students. From October to November, students collaborated with our Associate Director, Michael Barlow, for the final production of their Bachelor of Performing Arts degree, *the murmuration of lost birds*. Over a five-week intensive puppetry course, the students mastered essential skills in puppet manipulation, character creation, and visual storytelling.

Participating students	21
------------------------	----

# MASTERCLASSES BY OUR LEADERS

Our Artistic Director Philip Mitchell was invited to once again participate in Lemony S Puppet Theatre's Puppetry Lab in November in Melbourne. The masterclass focused on 'Why do we use puppets?' and featured Sam Routledge from Terrapin (TAS), Helen Stephens from Dead Puppets Society (QLD) and Rosemary Myers from Windmill Pictures (VIC).

-----  
**Participating artists** **13**  
 -----

# MASTERCLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

## MASTERCLASS: LARGE SCALE PUPPETRY

In July Spare Parts was thrilled to host Joe Blanck, Founder and Creative Director of A Blanck Canvas, who delivered a week-long immersive puppetry masterclass. Titled 'Large Scale Puppetry Process, Logistics, and Delivery', participants delved into the basics of creating and delivering large scale puppets that captivate audiences while adhering to stringent safety standards and budgetary constraints.

-----  
**Participating artists** **18**  
 -----

The masterclass covered five key topics: design requirements, construction, art finishing, rehearsals and performance. An exciting outcome that resulted from Joe's time with Spare Parts was A Blanck Canvas being engaged to build the puppets for our world premiere season of *Hometown* in December!

# TRAINING PUPPETS

The Training Puppets Initiative is central to achieving Spare Part's vision of becoming an International Centre of Excellence in Puppetry. The initiative focuses on elevating the skills of mid-career and emerging performers in the art of puppetry, while pioneering new approaches to puppet making and innovative design.

-----  
**Participating artists** **10**  
 -----

**SUPPORTED BY:**



As an Australian first, Spare Parts designed and created 72 specialty training puppets, made up of six unique sets. These innovative 3D-printed puppets will improve the standard of training and skill development in puppetry, while attracting new talent to the artform, ultimately resulting in stronger, more compelling work on WA stages.

In 2024, these puppets were used in the WAAPA Puppetry Unit and Sector Development Training workshop held in April, where WA performers from local theatre companies, Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, Encounter Theatre, The Last Great Hunt, and Sensorium Theatre, took part in specialised puppetry training. The workshop offered a rare opportunity for performing arts organisations and artists to come to together and connect, strengthen creative relationships, and explore future collaborations.





## FUNDRAISING REPORT

Public and private sector income continues to be an important part of Spare Parts' income mix. Financial support enables us to keep ticket prices affordable, expand our reach into new communities and provide free or low-cost programs and projects that enrich the lives and learning of many in our community.

Once again, 2024 saw growth in income from partnerships across sponsorship, funding, and grants. We were thrilled to secure five new partnerships to enable new programs and projects, grow in existing ones, and strengthen our operations. By the end of year, we had a total of nineteen partners and remain committed to nurturing these invaluable relationships.

Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries and Lotterywest continue to be significant supporters of Spare Parts, contributing to a range of impactful programs and projects. In 2024, we welcomed a new partnership with the Department of Communities, which provided vital support for our Marionettes and Memories program. Our long-term partnership with Healthway continues to strengthen and deliver the Go for 2 & 5 Regional School Tour and an innovative partnership with The Kids Research Institute. Minderoo Foundation also provides significant funding for our multifaceted Early Years Program.

Support from The Stan Perron Charitable Foundation, Aurizon Community Fund, PLD, Horizon Power, and Hawaiian helped extend the reach of our intrastate and national touring programs. The Feilman Foundation and UWA's School of Engineering worked with us to realise the Training Puppets Initiative, while The Goodeve Foundation and Malcolm Roberson Foundation played a key role in developing new puppetry works. Thanks to support from Royal Agricultural Society of WA, Spare Parts continues to have a theatre in which to stage our performances and connect with community. Finally, our pro bono partners, HWL Ebsworth and KHA Studio, continued to guide us through an exciting phase of bold business transformation.

Our Philanthropy Program continued to grow in 2024, welcoming new donors through our 20 Champions Giving Circle, Adopt A Puppet, and Giving Programs. Between 27 October 2023 and 31 May 2024, we ran our Home is Where the Heart is Giving Appeal. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community and securing Creative Australia's Plus1 matched funding, we raised a total of \$96,135. This vital support directly contributed to the creation of *Hometown*, which debuted on stage in December.

Spare Parts also hosted several events for donors to demonstrate the impact of their gift, taking them behind the scenes and providing opportunities to meet puppeteers, artists and fellow supporters.

This growth across both partnerships and philanthropy is a remarkable achievement for a company our size. We thank all our supporters for investing in Spare Parts Puppet Theatre.

# OUR PARTNERS

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



## PRINCIPAL PROGRAM PARTNER EARLY YEARS PUPPETRY PROGRAM



## NEW WORKS PARTNERS



## TOURING PARTNERS



## TRAINING PUPPETS PARTNERS



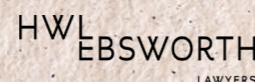
## RESEARCH PARTNER



## VENUE PARTNERS



## LEGAL PARTNER



# OUR DONORS

Thank you to our wonderful family of donors whose gifts enable Spare Parts to share the joy and magic of puppetry with our community. This list acknowledges gifts of \$25+ made between 1 January and 31 December 2024.

## 20 CHAMPIONS GIVING CIRCLE

- Monique Beaudoire and Stephen Hogden
- Di and Bernie Bent
- The Carter Family
- Geoff Crosse
- Sue Crosse
- Anna and Roger Dartnell
- Richard Evans
- Lisa Hamilton
- Dave Hansen
- John and Chris Hedges
- Warwick Hemsley AO
- Paul Holmes A Court
- Shelley Lewis
- Rob and Julie Lilburne
- David and Fiona Mofflin
- Jill and Tony Morgan
- Annie and Rodney Silberstein
- Heather and Barry Tasker
- Think Risk
- Anonymous (4)

Spare Parts Puppet Theatre warmly thanks the Patron of 20 Champions Giving Circle, Anna Dartnell. We acknowledge Anna and Roger's generosity in hosting events for donors since 2019.



PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHEN HEATH

# OUR DONORS

## ADOPT A PUPPET

### \$520

Hannah Bremner, and Maisie and Harry Taylor  
 Jeanie, Ella and Soren Christensen  
 Simone McGurk MLA  
 The O'Brien Family  
 Danielle, Lucas and Charlie Prowse

### \$260

Bronnie Christensen  
 Bronte Cohen  
 Daniel Dosek  
 Nicole and Jennifer Player  
 Christine Tan  
 Natalia, Mia, and Sarah Vollrath-Hale, and Barbara and Peter Vollrath

## GIVING PROGRAM

### \$500+

Marilyn Fowler

### \$200+

Claire Brittain  
 Helen and David Broadfoot  
 Nicole & Cameron Cherubino  
 Alan Gill  
 Dorothea Hansen-Knarhoi  
 Jackie Lee  
 Jill and Jeremy Nyman  
 Jacqui Robinson  
 Bryan & Jan Rodgers  
 Kathryn Teale  
 Lisa Williams  
 Caroline Wood  
 Anonymous (2)

### \$100+

Jan Burne  
 Jeanie Christensen  
 Catherine Cowan  
 Feldhusen Family  
 Sue Freeth  
 Jamie Hansen  
 Margaret Harwood  
 Anthony Hasluck  
 Catherine Henwood  
 Tania Hudson  
 Jackie May King  
 Gibson Nolte  
 Christine Tan  
 Annette Mason  
 Vollrath-Hale Family  
 Colleen Walker  
 Anonymous (3)

### \$120

Tayah and Jeanette Coleman  
 Sally + Pieter Hoedemaker  
 Jane, Ingrid and Janet Holmes À Court  
 Natalie and Stephen Jenkins  
 Hellene, Angus and Oscar McTaggart  
 Jan Newman and Benji Pidala  
 Jan Rodgers  
 Lisa Williams

### \$25 to \$99

Helen Airey  
 Zoe Atkinson  
 Peta Barker  
 Gregory Brudenell  
 Fiona Cameron  
 Helen Close  
 Suzie Combemorel  
 Georgina Cox  
 Veronique Desgeorges  
 Lyn Dowling  
 Joan Dugdale  
 Julie Fazioli  
 Jacqueline Hooper  
 Jennifer Kay  
 Nicole Liesis  
 Mim Little  
 Natalie Lucas  
 Elena McConville-Wolfe  
 Denese McKeown  
 Graham Metcalf  
 Kathleen H Moore  
 Anita Percudani  
 Helen Ritter  
 Kate Santleben  
 Denese Shepherdson  
 Peter Tapsell  
 Pia Taylor  
 Shelley Thorpe  
 Terry Tyzac  
 Dario Vallini  
 Bruce Van Rooyen  
 Tayla Voy  
 Noni Walker  
 Lyn Wright  
 Kay Zani  
 Anonymous (13)



PHOTO CREDIT: PHILIP MITCHELL

# SPARE PARTS

puppet theatre



1 Short Street  
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