

TASMANIA PERFORMS proudly presents
TERRAPIN PUPPET THEATRE'S production of ...

Co-Designed and Directed by Frank Newman
Written by Finegan Hruckemeyer

Helena AND THE JOURNEY OF THE Hello



THEATRE for the
WHOLE FAMILY

HELENA'S MUM IS ALWAYS ON THE PHONE –
BECAUSE SHE LIVES IN IT!

In partnership with...

Out On A Limb Regional Arts
Channel Regional Arts group
Palais Management Committee

Campbell Town Childcare Association
Arts Deloraine
Stanley Town Hall Committee
Project Queenstown Inc

Devonport Entertainment Centre
Lighthouse Regional Arts
Rotary Club of Scottsdale
Great Oyster Bay Regional Arts

ABOUT Tasmania Performs

Tasmania Performs began in 2006 as a state government performing arts initiative working in partnership with artists and regional communities to present excellent Tasmanian performances across the state.

Tonight's production of *Helena and the Journey of the Hello* is touring to 13 communities from the 29 September to 17 October, 2009.

If you would like to discuss the possibility of hosting a fundraising performance for your organisation or wish to send feedback about the production, please contact:
Annette Downs at Tasmania Performs
annette.downs@artsatwork.com.au
Ph 03 6233 5935.

We love to hear your feedback.



Thanks

Many thanks to our Tasmania Performs touring Presenting Partners and volunteers, we couldn't do it without you, and if we did...it wouldn't be nearly as much fun!

- Out On A Limb Regional Arts and James and Trisha Parker
- Channel Regional Arts Group and Jane Marris
- Palais Management Committee, Charles Zuber and David Sales
- Campbell Town Childcare Association, Kirstie Anderson, Anna Lovitt, Lorraine Green
- Arts Deloraine Annie Robinson, Diana Tuleja and John Boxer
- Stanley Town Hall Committee, Circular Head Council and Caroline Gillam
- Project Queenstown Inc, Megan Crump and Travis Tiddy and thank you to the West Coast Council for supporting the event.
- Devonport Entertainment Centre, Debbie Kershaw and staff
- Lighthouse Regional Arts, Lorraine Wootton, George Town Council, George Town Dry Cleaners, Tamar FM and all other businesses, groups and individuals who have assisted with promotion
- Rotary Club of Scottsdale, Jan Hughes, Scottsdale DHS, Pamela Krushka, Grant Morrison and Roses Newsagents
- In St Helens: John McCullum, Elaine Sullivan from Purple Possum Wholefoods, Carol Liefting from

Choc-A-Lolly, Kim Chappell and Grassy Bottom Arts Branch, Mary Anne Wadsworth, Kaye Barraclough and their many helpers.

- In Bicheno: The Bicheno Newsagency, The Bicheno Players, Mick Ciavareooa, Sue Hindley, Noel Burnell from Glamorgan Spring Bay Council and Cheeky the sparky!
- Great Oyster Bay Regional Arts, David and Jenny Lathwell

Plus our gratitude to the various businesses that have generously provided ticketing outlets across the state and the various schools and local newsletters that promoted the performances.

If you enjoyed the show and had a great night out...feel free to buy the people above a drink, they've earned it!

Tasmania Performs also thanks Wendy Blacklock and the team at Performing Lines who manage the project, Tasmanian Regional Arts, Ten Days on the Island, Arts Tasmania and arts@work for their ongoing support.

Helena AND THE JOURNEY OF THE Hello

ABOUT

Terrapin Puppet Theatre

Terrapin is the Australian innovator of puppetry-based visual theatre embracing new technologies, creating contemporary storytelling, and touring and collaborating nationally and internationally. The company injects skills and programs into the Tasmanian community, entertaining family audiences and supporting and developing artists.

Under Artistic Director Frank Newman, the company is exploring digital puppetry, which uses new technologies and cross platform practice to continually challenge and redefine puppetry as a visual theatre form. Terrapin creates new works through research and developmental processes that are designed specifically for each work. Whilst Terrapin reaches to the future in its exploration of form and story telling styles, it does so with its feet firmly grounded in the age-old craft of puppetry and theatre's rich traditions. Terrapin's productions engage all age groups and are designed to tour.

TERRAPIN
PUPPET THEATRE

ABOUT

Helena and the Journey of the Hello

Helena Bugosi's mum is always on the phone – because she lives in it!

Helena and the Journey of the Hello is a kid's picture book tale in a crossed line conversation with contemporary times. The old world charm of the illustrated story is given a theatrical twist as unexpected parts of the set and costumes open like pages in a book. As the audience sits inside the fantasy world of Helena Bugosi, children and adults alike are amazed at what is possible with a mobile phone, a coat and an old iron bed as they are taken on the *Journey of the Hello*.

Showcasing Terrapin's exploration into the world of digital puppetry, *Helena and the Journey of the Hello* is narrated by three mischievous animals that could be straight out of the midsummer night forest. They croon and wail in a waltz playing band; they fumble with puppets and fiddle with phones, weaving the audience through a thicket of stories about Helena and her mother who lives in a phone!

A note from the Director

Helena and the Journey of the Hello underwent a thorough and joyful process of coming into being. It started in May 2008 when the artistic team

spent a week playing with mobile phones to see what we could do with them theatrically. It was a pure exploration of form. What we realised very quickly was that mobile phones were full of potential to make cracking theatre. This was matched by Finegan Kruckemeyer's instant response with fertile stories that made the whole artistic team very excited. The initial week was followed by a second week of development where we merged a script Finegan had written with the work with the phones. The excitement and fervour only increased.

Helena's journey then made it to a full-blown script and into the rehearsal room and then opened in Hobart in October 2008. With the help of Tasmania Performs we have, since then, had the opportunity to rework and refine the script, so that the show you are seeing tonight has been improved from the premiere season.

While the story of Helena is the most important aspect of this performance, there is another element of this journey that is fundamental to Terrapin's broader work over the upcoming years. This is an exploration of what we are calling digital puppetry.

Distilled down to its most fundamental, digital puppetry is the animation of characters and the theatrical space using digital technologies. Digital puppetry uses digital technologies to create characters in the same way

wood or foam is sculpted to carve puppets or fabrics are used to make costumes. They are materials for the artist to use to fashion the images of their imagination, and to serve the telling of the story.

Helena and the Journey of the Hello explores mobile phones, using them to create characters through use of the video, sound and LCD screen functions. It is not a show about mobiles, but a show that has come out of using mobiles as a starting point for a theatrical exploration. As a director I am interested in working with technology only if it creates strong and engaging theatre. The technology must enhance what is at the core of theatre; the connection between the audience and the performance. When this connection is live and kicking then the whole theatre is alive. *Helena and the Journey of the Hello* uses digital puppetry, amongst many other traditional theatrical techniques, in a way that serves the telling of a strange and alluring story, which we sincerely hope you enjoy.

Helena is theatre for the whole family (recommended for 5 years+).

Helena Creative Team

Co-designed and Directed by:
Frank Newman

Writer:
Finegan Kruckemeyer

Performed by:
Ryk Goddard, Mel King and
Sam McMahon

Production Designer:
Kate Davis

Music:
Mikelangelo and Fred Showell

Puppet Designer:
Greg Methé

Lighting Designer:
Danny Pettingill

Original Artwork by:
Tim Schultz

Tasmania Performs Touring Team

Producer:
Annette Downs

Pre-production:
Jen Cramer

Tour Manager:
Caleb Doherty

Stage Manager, Lx and Sound Operator:
Rueben Hopkins

Crew:
Cody Mayne

Graphic Design:
Shannon Challis

Web Development:
Glenn Jeffrey

Terrapin Puppet Theatre Team

Artistic Director:
Frank Newman

General Manager:
Kevin O'Loughlin

Administration Assistant:
Sarah Briggs

Terrapin Board of Management

Stephen Wicks (Chair)
Ian Nelson (Vice Chair)
Cate Fowler
Esther Pither
Vanessa Stevenson

Terrapin Contact Details

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Terrapin Government Partners

Terrapin Puppet Theatre Ltd is assisted by the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, and through Arts Tasmania by the Minister for Tourism and the Arts.



Terrapin Corporate Partners

Terrapin Puppet Theatre gratefully acknowledges the following organisations for their support.



Poster Photo Credit: Peter Mathew

BIOGRAPHIES



Frank Newman

Frank Newman (Director) is a director, performer and community development worker. He has worked on a range of projects such as producing and directing theatre shows, youth festivals and has established new theatre companies. He has directed, produced, performed and trained in theatre for over 10 years and was awarded a Bachelor of Creative Arts from Wollongong University. In 2006 he was assistant-director of the critically acclaimed *Honour Bound*, presented at the Sydney Opera House. Most recently he was the Co-Artistic Director of Newtown Theatre, Artistic Director of Ashfield Youth Theatre and tutor at the University of Western Sydney. Frank was appointed Artistic Director of Terrapin in 2007 and has directed four shows for the company.



Finegan Kruckemeyer

Finegan Kruckemeyer (Writer) has had 35 of his commissioned plays performed around Australia, North America, Asia and Europe, with 19 new works set to have (inter)national seasons to 2011. This year, he writes commissioned works in England, Ireland, China, Hobart, Sydney and Adelaide. In 2009, *The Tragical Life of Cheeseboy* (Slingsby) won the 2009 Australian Writers' Guild (AWGIE) Award for Best Children's Play in Australia, and toured to Scotland, USA, Spain, Singapore, England and Sydney, and will have further multiple international seasons (including a Broadway season) and is currently being turned into a feature film. Finegan's plays have been part of 22 major (inter)national festivals, two State Theatre seasons, and a three-month season with Tim Robbins' *The Actors' Gang*, in LA. Three new European commissions are currently being written – an operetta called *My Mother Told Me Not To Stare* for Theatre Hullabaloo, an adaptation of *Pobby and Dingan* for Travelling Light (both English), and a one-man show for The Ark in Dublin. As well as the 2009 AWGIE Award, Finegan received the 2009 Young Tasmanian Artist Award, 2008 Best Childrens' Theatre Playwright Oscar, 2007 Best Playwright Oscar, 2006 Jill Blewett Playwrights' Award, and 2002 Colin Thiele Scholarship.



Kate Davis

Kate Davis (Designer) is a freelance director and designer. She is the Co-Artistic director of The Rabble. Directing credits include: *Three Men in a Bottle* by Daniel Keene (Malthouse Theatre – Things on Sunday), *Corvus* by Jasmine Chan (Bay 17, CarriageWorks), *4.48 Psychosis* by Sarah Kane (Ashfield Youth Theatre). Design credits include: *Zombie State* (Melbourne Workers Theatre and Union House Theatre), *Helena and the Journey of the Hello* (Terrapin Puppet Theatre), *Manna* (Wharf2Loud STC), *Salome - In Cogito Volume III* (Bay 17, CarriageWorks), *Corvus* (Bay 17, CarriageWorks), *Osama the Hero* (Old Fitzroy Theatre), *Can't Leave Tomorrow Alone* (Theatreworks), *Anorak of Fire* (Melbourne Fringe Festival and Adelaide Fringe Festival 2006), *Lucky* (La Mama) and *Bumping Heads* (Next Wave Festival and Dock 11 Berlin).

BIOGRAPHIES



Ryk Goddard

Ryk Goddard (Performer) is an actor and writer for online, radio and stage. Trained at VCA in Melbourne, Ryk has created over 30 plays that have toured Tasmania and Australia. His comedy series *Blogdaddy* was commissioned by Radio National and has had 20 episodes played on Radio National and throughout the local radio network all over Australia. His online series *Sneaking off to my Shed* had over 30,000 views in its first week online at DIY Father.com. Ryk has performed this year in the Ten Days National Playreading Festival, for Terrapin Theatre, as comedy hip hop legend Cecil Brown, and hosts bingo on Tuesday nights. Ryk teaches adults acting for REACT drama school in Hobart and coaches individuals in presentation skills. A sought-after MC, Ryk is also a casual radio presenter for ABC Local Radio Hobart.



Mel King

Mel King (Performer) graduated from Theatre Nepean in 1991 and has worked in theatre film and TV. She joined Terrapin in 1994 and has toured nationally and internationally in many productions: *Freedom of the Heart*, *Little Red*, *Yolla*, *Heroes*, *Unearthed*, *The BFG*, *Frankenstein* and *Explosion Therapy*. In 2000 she worked with Henson Puppets on the Australian production of *Pan* and performed in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Sydney Paralympic Games with French company *Plasticien Volants*. In 2003 Mel joined Big Monkey and has been seen in productions of *Treasure Island*, *Robin Hood* and *Alice in Wonderland*. Last year she appeared in the Tasmanian Theatre Company's production of *Bombshells*. Her short film credits include *The Promising* and *Sound Blocks Pain*. She puppeteered on the TV series *Farscape*, *Wiggles TV* and *The Wiggles Movie*. This year she made the second series of *Blogdaddy* which continues to be heard on ABC radio.



Sam McMahon

Sam McMahon (Performer) is a comedy, circus, puppetry and movement performer and creator. Sam was part of the original creative team that produced the Slingsby Theatre Company's production of *The Tragical Life Of Cheeseboy*. In 2007 Sam performed in the critically acclaimed Vitalstatistix/Kurruru co-production *2nd to None*. In 2005 Sam performed at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival show *Music Trivia Quiz*. He has also worked as a collaborator and performer with KneeHigh Puppeteers, No Strings Attached - Theatre of Disability, Riverland Youth Theatre, Urban Myth Theatre of Youth, Cirkidz and Kurruru Indigenous Youth Performing Arts.



Fred Showell

(Music) is a solo electro-pop artist based in Hobart who performs nationally as Charles Du Cane. Since playing his first shows in early 2007, he has built a solid following throughout his native South, playing sets at festivals such as the Falls Festival and Ten Days on the Island. His sophomore album, *Poets*, was written and recorded in locations around India and finished off at his home studio in inner city Hobart. The release of *Poets* will be marked with a string of shows through Melbourne and Sydney in early December. Writing has also begun on *Album #3*, which will be produced by Chris Townend (Augie March, Portishead, Silverchair) during 2009. Fred previously composed a full album's worth of material for Terrapin's *Explosion Therapy*, which played a highly successful run at the prestigious Shanghai Grand Theatre and four Australian cities.



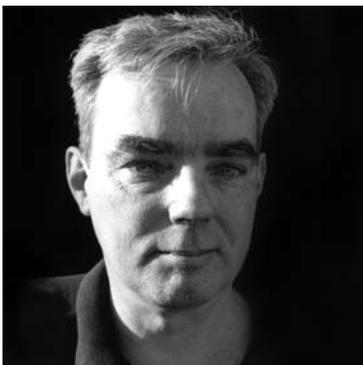
Mikelangelo

Mikelangelo (Music) has been composing for and performing in professional music, cabaret and theatre productions since 1990. He is the front man and main songwriter of critically acclaimed performance ensemble Mikelangelo & the Black Sea Gentlemen. As a solo performer he has toured widely in Australia and internationally with the hit production *La Clique*, and has recently created a new cabaret show *The Nightingale of the Adriatic* which has toured to Adelaide, Melbourne and Edinburgh. He has also composed music for theatre shows *The Honeymoon Suite*, *The Insect Circus* (UK), *The Adventures of Captain Frodo*, *Boat of Dreams*, *The Heart of the Black Sea*, *The Carnival Goes On*, *Songs to Illuminate the Dark*, and also for the short films of *Carnival Cinema*, the new Roger Scholes film *The Passionate Apprentices* and for the book/CD *The Floating Islands*.



Danny Pettingill

Danny Pettingill (Lighting Designer) is a Graduate of the VCA Bachelor of Production (2006), and was the recipient of the 2006 Orloff Family Trust Scholarship Award on completion of his degree. He also has a Diploma of Small Companies and Community Theatre, 2003. His design credits include: *Ashes to Ashes*, directed by Sam Strong; the Australian premiere of *Mercury Fur* in Melbourne and Sydney with little death productions; *Chekhov Re-Cut: Platonov*, with The Hayloft Project; and *Pool (no water)* and the world premiere of Tom Holloway's *Red Sky Morning* with Red Stitch Actors Theatre. Danny is an Artist in Residence (Lighting Design) with the Hayloft Project.



Greg Methe

Greg Methe (Puppet Design) is a designer/maker who completed a Bachelor of Environmental Design at the Tasmanian College of Advanced Education in 1981. Greg moved from architectural projects to theatre-based design and has worked with a range of companies including Salamanca Theatre Company, Zootango Theatre Company and the State Theatre Company (South Australia). Greg is one of the most experienced and skilled designers for puppet theatre in Australia. His dedication and skill in his work with Terrapin since it started has had a lasting influence on the artistic development of the Company. He has worked on nearly 100 productions as designer/maker and has toured to six countries as tour manager/technician. He has also worked on many non-theatrical commissions including interpretation centres and the Tasmanian Float for the Centenary of Federation Parades in Sydney and Melbourne. Greg was a member of the Australia Council's Drama committee from 1993-6. He chaired the committee and was a member of the Performing Arts Board from 1994-6. He has been a member of the Executive Committee of the Salamanca Arts Centre since 1996 and President until 2004.

BIOGRAPHIES



Reuben Hopkins

Reuben Hopkins (Stage Manager, Lx and Sound Operator) has been working professionally in theatre and entertainment since 1999. During that time he has worked on a huge range of shows, in many different roles and positions. Over the last 2 years Reuben has relocated from Darwin back to Hobart, where he began his career. During this time he has been working as Audio Technician (amongst other technical roles) at the Theatre Royal, Hobart, as well as Lighting Designer for the Hobart Theatre Summer School's *The Pirates of Penzance*, Terrapin Puppet Theatre's *Boats* and *The Falling Room and the Flying Room*, and Lighting Designer and Audio Operator for independently produced *Origins*, Touring Technician, Lighting and Sound Operator for Tasmanian Theatre Company's *Bombshells* and Site Lighting Technician for the 2008-2009 Falls Festival to name a few.



Cody Mayne

Cody Mayne (Tour Crew) During the past four years of working in the industry Cody has worked for a wide variety of major production companies across the state such as The Sound Company (Launceston), Production Works!, Professional Music, Lighting Systems, Ruffcut Records, Solid Orange Productions, Alive Technologies (Hobart) undertaking the following duties: Audio Engineer, Lighting Operator, Event Organisation, A/V, Camera Operator, Photography and Drum Technician. Cody has worked across a wide variety of major productions and festivals including: The Falls Festival, MSFest, Soundscape, Royal Garden Sounds, Southern Roots, Crowded House, The Presets, Mona Foma, Cats Production, Jimmy Barnes, Hilltop Hoods, Bliss N Eso, The Screaming Jets, The Funkoars, Phrase, The Potbelleez, Eskimo Joe. Cody has also worked as an in-house sound technician at the Tattersals Hotel Curly's Bar and Nightclub and Irish Murphys, Hobart.



Caleb Doherty

Caleb Doherty (Tour Manager) works as a video artist and live sound engineer. Caleb has been the technical manager for Hobart Collage Theatre, Backspace Theatre, Hobart Fringe Festival and various other Tasmanian events. He is also co-founder of Solid Orange Media, Tasmania's freshest video and multimedia production company. As a video artist he has made work for Australian Red Cross, Parliament House and TasDance among others. He has mixed audio for Regina Spector, Peter Combe, Shannon Noll, Lyrics Born, and many more. Caleb hopes to achieve a Post Graduate Research Degree from Google in the near future.