

Barbara and Barry



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COMPANY PROFILE

Melissa Western and Tnee Dyer have enjoyed successful independent full-time performing arts careers for over a decade. They have travelled locally and globally to key festivals (Edinburgh Fringe, Woodford Folk Festival, Adelaide Fringe, Queensland Music Festival, Brisbane Festival), have toured Queensland extensively (*A-Z of Cabaret, Lush Life, Ella, Marilyn, Marlene and Me*) and have toured the UK in 2009 and 2011 with UKNRTS (*Ella, Marilyn Marlene and Me, Lush Life, Oh Lady Be Good*). As a married couple with children, this pair enjoy a warm and uniquely personal rapport onstage. They are known and respected for their refined skills, spontaneity and authenticity.

Achievements

Their achievements include performing at the '07, '08, '09, 11 and '13 Edinburgh Festival Fringes and garnering five star reviews for a self-penned musical *Ella, Marilyn, Marlene and Me*; writing, recording and releasing original music CD *Stepping Stone*; featuring on countless live and studio jazz recordings; Opera Australia projects; Wotopera musical directing and touring; performing on numerous occasions for the office of the Australian Prime Minister, Queensland Premier and multiple high level corporate and government clients. We have toured extensively throughout Australia, the UK and France including: Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse, Brisbane Cabaret Festival, Brisbane Jazz Club, Speigeltent, Queensland Music Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, QPAC, Gold Coast Arts Centre, Adelaide Fringe etc. At last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, *Sweet, Sour & Saucy* received a five star review from Broadway Baby with Western being touted as "a force of nature".

For further information see attached CVs.

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Sweet, Sour & Saucy is framed within a 1950s Australian talkback radio love show hosted by Barry and Barbara featuring songs by Eartha Kitt, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Nat King Cole and more. *Sweet, Sour & Saucy* is duo jazz/cabaret performance featuring fresh, energetic interpretations of jazz standards from high calibre singer/musicians Antony (Tnee) Dyer and Melissa Western. This is the perfect mix for a festival or touring show combining virtuosic piano playing, strong and sultry vocals, rich harmonies and inventive accompaniment (ukulele, washboard, spoons, trombone kazoo, tap dancing and more). Self-appointed "experts on love" Barbara and Barry welcome the audience into their quirky radio studio and intersperse letters and calls from love-sick listeners with their love-advice, generally delivered within the context of the perfect song to fit the listeners' worries!

Appearances:

Edinburgh Festival Fringe (August 2013) [debut performance]
Brisbane Jazz Club (September 2013)
International Women's Day at Brisbane City Hall (March 2014)

Jumpers and Jazz Festival, Warwick Qld (July 2014)
Canterbury Festival (UK) (October 2014)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Concept, Creation and Performance by Melissa Western and Tnee Dyer.
Marketing images by Meagan Loretz
Production management by Leanne Butterworth

BIOGRAPHIES

MELISSA WESTERN

Brisbane-based singer-actor-writer Melissa Abigail Western was born in Manchester, England ... the only daughter of a jazz-singing English father and an award-winning Sri Lankan model mother. By turns sassy, soulful, smart and sweet, Melissa straddles the worlds of jazz, cabaret and theatre. She performs internationally, performing and producing new works and singing with a variety of ensembles. Her passion is taking to the stage in front of a live audience, seamlessly weaving song, movement and story into an experience they will want to share and cherish. Over the past ten years she has performed to audience and critical acclaim locally in Brisbane, nationally throughout Australia and internationally in the UK and France. Her self-penned musical Ella, Marilyn, Marlene and Me was an official sell-out two consecutive years at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, garnering five star reviews from ThreeWeeks "absolutely brilliant... entralling vocal talents wowed the audience" and four stars from The Scotsman "Melissa Western is on fire... it's mainly about the eyes, the face and the voice." In 2013, Melissa new jazz cabaret at The Jazz Bar entitled Sweet, Sour and Saucy received critical and audience acclaim, Western being touted as a "force of nature" (Broadway Baby, 5 stars, August 2013).

She has appeared twice with the iconic Women in Voice (QPAC 2008, Qld tour 2012), and has created countless cabarets including Push It! Songs about getting pregnant, giving birth and having kids, Oh Lady Be Good: A tribute to the great chanteuses of the 20th century and Melissa and the Cunning Accompanist and Lush Life with husband Tnee. Other festival and venue highlights include Australia Day Festival Southbank, Qld Premier's Heroes Ceremony, official Australia Day ceremony Southbank, performing sold out seasons of Oh, Lady Be Good at The Jazz Bar in Edinburgh and Blind Tiger, London, critical acclaim and official "Sold Out" status for her show Baby Loves Singing, Dancing and YOU! at the Edinburgh Festival, being hand-picked as the feature performer for former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's Australia Day reception, touring Queensland with former Premier Anna Bligh for her Christmas Concerts (2009, 2010 and 2011), UK tour (Lincolnshire/Nottingham shire), Lush Life and Ella, Marilyn, Marlene and Me - Edinburgh Fringe Festival, The Jazz Bar - Edinburgh, Women in Voice - QPAC, The Vault - Edinburgh Fringe Festival, L'église - Avaux (France), Powerhouse Theatre - Brisbane Cabaret Festival, Brisbane Jazz Club, Speigeltent - Qld Music Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, Valley Jazz Festival, Mackay Entertainment Centre, Adelaide Fringe Festival, The Tivoli, Gold Coast Jazz and Blues Festival, The Basement - Gold Coast Arts Centre, La Boite Theatre, Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre.

She has recorded her own original CD Stepping Stone as well as releasing a live jazz CD, Live & Intimate and featuring on High Tide vol II (Brisbane Jazz Club), Tailspin: Brisbane Big Band tribute to Paul Gibens and Singin' and Swingin' with her Dad, Alan Western.

Melissa was Valedictorian of her graduating Bachelor of Arts at UQ, holds a University Medal from the University of Queensland, first class Honours degree and was awarded her Masters of Philosophy in the field of Drama. She has trained intensively in musical theatre at RADA (London) and NIDA, physical theatre with Zen Zen Zo, and has trained in dance for over fifteen years including: classes with Luis Pinto (Megajam), Jasmine Meakin (Hip-hop, Sexy Cool), Simone Pope (flamenco studio) and with teachers at the Broadway Dance Centre (New York).

From 2002-2009 Melissa was heavily involved with the Brisbane Jazz Club serving as the club's youngest ever President. Under her stewardship the club thrived and now maintains its position as one of Australia's premiere live jazz venues.

ANTONY (Tnee) DYER

Tnee has radiated music since early childhood, his body swingin' along to life's rhythm and his soul finding its way through life's ever-shifting chord changes. Following early romances with the French horn and then trumpet, Tnee finally found his calling: the keys. Having completed a Bachelor of Arts at Griffith University, Tnee went on to gain an Advanced Diploma of Music at Jazzworx!. Tnee has performed at countless venues and festivals across Australia including the Brisbane Cabaret Festival, Adelaide fringe, Sydney and Melbourne venues and the Brisbane Jazz Club. Over the past five years Tnee's energetic style of piano playing has seen him hold residencies at The Glass Bar and Mix Bar in Brisbane's entertainment precinct The Valley and various venues in West End. His joyful lyricism has also seen him hold an early morning residency for over eight years at Waterfront Place, Brisbane's top high end office complex where he entertains early morning workers with his beautiful solo piano work. Tnee featured in the award-winning production of devised work Yarabah: the musical with Opera Australia for which he composed and co-created musical works and performed as a key musician. This year he will complete four projects with WotOpera, travelling around Australia as Musical Director for unique projects involving high school students devising their own original operas.

Melissa and Tnee live in Brisbane with their two children Ella Abigail and Sasha Rose.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION

Act 1 - *1hr*

Interval - *20min*

Act 2 - *50min*

SUITABLE VENUES

- Theatre

- Hall
- Black Box
- Outdoor
- Community space

Elevated stage preferred however can also be on equal level with audience

Minimum area 4x4m

Can be performed in proscenium, thrust, in the round or cabaret

Minimum bump in 60minutes

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

5 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

60 minutes

LICENCING AGREEMENTS

nil

APRA OBLIGATIONS

Apra fees will vary depending on size or venue, ticket price and length of tour

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 3 people.

Name	Role
Melissa Western	Performer
Antony (Tnee) Dyer	Performer
Tbc	Tour/stage manager

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2013	The Jazz Bar (Edinburgh)	16
2013	Brisbane Jazz Club	1
2014	Brisbane City Hall	1
2014	Warwick Jumpers and Jazz	1
2014	Canterbury Festival (UK)	1

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

Workshops could be run according to the interests of the community, topics include group singing workshop, improvisation workshops, customised masterclasses.

DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

Our workshops would be customised to the local community and respond to community needs.

COST

A one-off fee of \$150 is payable to the facilitators, regardless of the number of participants.

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As these are customised workshops, the target audience will be determined in consultation with the community.

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

One line

A vintage talkback radio love show featuring classic jazz and blues.

Short

One grand piano. Two glorious voices. Classic jazz and blues. This dynamic duo recreate the chemistry of great duets like Ella and Louis with sweet, sour and saucy songs. Quality music, hysterical tangents and an intimate atmosphere. Sweet, Sour & Saucy is framed within a 1950s Australian talkback radio love show hosted by self-appointed “experts on love” Barry and Barbara featuring songs by Eartha Kitt, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Nat King Cole and more. This is the perfect mix for a festival show combining virtuosic piano playing, strong and sultry vocals, rich harmonies and inventive accompaniment (ukulele, washboard, spoons, trombone kazoo, tap dancing and more).

Extended

One grand piano. Two glorious voices. Classic jazz and blues. This dynamic duo recreate the chemistry of great duets like Ella and Louis with sweet, sour and saucy songs. Sweet, Sour & Saucy is duo jazz/cabaret performance featuring fresh, energetic interpretations of jazz standards from high calibre singer/musicians Antony (Tnee) Dyer and Melissa Western. Sweet, Sour & Saucy is framed within a 1950s Australian talkback radio love show hosted by Barry and Barbara featuring songs by Eartha Kitt, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Bessie Smith, Nat King Cole and more. This is the perfect mix for a festival show combining virtuosic piano playing, strong and sultry vocals, rich harmonies and inventive accompaniment (ukulele, washboard, spoons, trombone kazoo, tap dancing and more).

MARKETING SUMMARY

- Fully designed A3 posters
- Full designed A5 postcards
- A suite of images in varying sizes, orientations and resolutions
- An edited promo clip available on YouTube
- Barbara and Barry have their own website
- This show is highly accessible and will appeal to anyone with an interest in jazz, blues, live music, comedy and vintage style

- Due to the “love advice” nature of the talkback radio show framing, anyone in a relationship, wanting to be in a relationship or just interested in “love” will find this show appealing

MEDIA QUOTES

★★★★★"Warm, Witty and supremely talented", "captivating", "Western is a force of nature", "Superb comic timing" Broadway Baby

"Quality all the way" East Coast FM (Scotland)

AUDIENCE REVIEWS

Edinburgh Festival Fringe reviews:

"Great musicianship", "highly recommended", "excellent show", "if you are only going to see one show, this is the one for you"

Brisbane Jazz Club reviews:

"My family and I thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Melissa's virtuosity and musical talent is well known to me but I was impressed with her acting talent and also very impressed with Tnee's singing voice." George Macionis

"We loved the accents, the songs and the humour of the whole show! It was fantastic!" Elaine Casonati

"It was fantastic, Melissa and Tnee were fabulous as always!" Danny Peel

COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

"It was fun, cleverly written, perfectly executed .. and Melissa's presence on stage is always captivating. She is a true darling in every sense of the word, and so well loved and respected by all at the Club." Rita Laurie, President - Brisbane Jazz Club

"Where do I start? Spectacular, amazing, educated, funny, entertaining and I could go on. Melissa and Tnee I am just blown away with you show and I cannot thank you enough for giving our Guests on of the most interesting and entertaining events ever. We have been inundated with praise about the greatest indoor picnic and how it was not your boring sit and eat and listen event and this would not have been possible if not for you both."

Gail Headley, Community Development & Engagement Manager, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Foundation

VIDEO LINKS

[Link to YouTube promo clip here](#)

IMAGES

[Link to online image gallery here](#)



MARKETING MATERIALS

- Fully designed A3 posters
- Full designed A5 postcards
- A suite of images in varying sizes, orientations and resolutions
- An edited promo clip available on [YouTube](#)
- Audio clips available on Soundcloud ([audio links here](#))
- Barbara and Barry have their own website ([website link here](#))

CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

No content warnings, highly accessible show

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

No sponsors to acknowledge

PRODUCTION DETAILS

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

We require 1 x setup contact from the venue to set the venue seating as required and induct crew into the venue specifics

Staging

Elevated stage preferred however can be on equal level with audience

Minimum area 4x4m

Can be performed in proscenium, thrust, in the round or cabaret

Minimum bump in 60minutes

Show times

Option 1: One set show "Sweet, Sour & Saucy" [50min-1hour no interval]

Option 2: Two set show: first half "Sweet, Sour & Saucy", second half "Barbara & Barry take requests [2hr + interval]

Audio

We require:

Grand Piano if available (or we provide nord Piano/Stage 88key)

We provide:

5x Vocal Mics (2 for singing {beta 58a or SM58}, 2 for talking, 1 EQ'd for telephone effect)

2x Instrument mic (1 for piano, 1 for ukelele/washboard/spoons)

2x Front of house speakers (minimum)

2x Fold-back speakers (preferably with separate sends)

12 Channel Mixing Desk (with EQ/compression/reverb)

iPad RCA cable into mixing desk

4x Boom microphone stands

Lighting States

We provide:

Live music - light general wash, spot of vocal and spot on piano/vocal
Radio talk back - Focussed light on radio state
General Stage lights on a dimmer

We require:

Power on stage

Props**We require:**

Small table
2 x chairs (armless) OR one small bench seat or stool

We provide:

2 x music stands
1 x piece wood or mdf, min 80cm2 (tap dancing section)

CONTACTS

Manager: Leanne Butterworth –
Co-creator/performer: Melissa Western - 0414267009
Co-creator/performer: Antony Dyer - 0423584678
Tour manager/crew: tbc