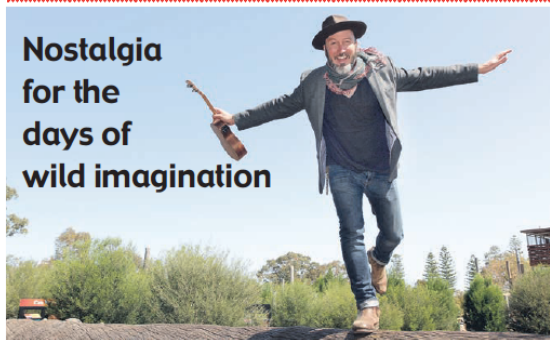


Benjamin & Me | Media Report

Print + Online Articles

The Post Newspaper Time Out | Print
 03/10/2015
<http://bit.ly/1MYuWMg>



Nostalgia for the days of wild imagination

Storyteller Mark Storen happily recalls days of rough-and-tumble play.

Benjamin is Will's best mate in the whole wide world.

Benjamin is also a dog. Musician and cabaret performer Mark Storen tells the tale of Will's plan to build the first ever boy-and-dog flying machine for the Awesome Festival.

Their adventures are based on Mark's own childhood adventures and the trouble he got into with his dog, Sasha.

Mark grew up in Roleystone, his childhood filled with riding bush tracks, building jumps, fishing for tadpoles, getting lost in the bush and never getting home on time.

"I lament that time when

I lament that time when it was OK to play on logs and climb trees that were unsafe

kids were left to their own devices, when it was OK to play on logs and climb trees that were unsafe, and that getting hurt was just part of learning," Mark said.

In writing his first children's show, Mark has been mentored by playwright Finegan Kruckemeyer, who has children's shows performing all around the world.

Mark's show is a musical adventure of songs, good old-fashioned storytelling and childlike illustrations created by artist and per-

former Jacinta Larcombe. "Her giant story picture book is rudimentary, which suits the style of the show," Mark said.

Benjamin & Me is produced by Mark's new company, Whiskey and Boots, which is dedicated to storytelling with music.

It is at the Blue Room Theatre from October 6 to 11 at 11am and 2pm and October 15 to 24 at 6pm. Book through bluesroom.org.au or call Blue Room on 9227 7005.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of WA presents a Double Bill

TRIAL by JURY

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Department of Western Australia Department of Culture and the Arts

The Guardian Express | Print
 22/09/2015
<http://bit.ly/1Ey5vLD>

STAGE

Mark Storen has departed from adult themes for his new show.

COMING OF AGE STORY FOR KIDS

PERHAPS it's Ham on Rye, The Bell Jar, The Virgin Substitutes or Catcher in the Rye.

We all have a favourite coming-of-age narrative that weaves an unforgettable kind of magic.

Mark Storen takes great pleasure in highlighting the pivotal moments from his list of childhood in his latest work.

Departing from his usual - more adult-themed - productions, the Perth writer-performer-musician prepares Benjamin & Me for the AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things next month.

A coming-of-age musical adventure, it follows the story of a wildly imaginative boy, Will, and his best friend, Benjamin.

"These two characters are great messes and they experience a couple of meltdowns, together that really challenge them and show how they will merge into the next stage of their lives," Storen said.

The charismatic theatre-maker, known for cabaret, drew from his boyhood when creating WILL & BOB.

Inspiration came from eccentric family members, the love of his former best mate, Sasha the silly, scruffy, and wacky and adolescent antics like infatoring his parrot and Oscar Cabaret.

"My grandmother was a pretty interesting lady and often liked to crawl in through windows instead of using the door," Storen explained.

"Will's family is quirky in that they support following a different path.

"His dad is an inventor-of-sorts and has a shed kitted out with all these crazy contraptions. He tells Will to go in and make whatever he wants, so Will makes the first boy-and-dog flying machine and he and Benjamin go on an adventure."

Planning family-friendly material was a challenge for Storen, but one he plans to pursue with future projects.

"I guess I decided to use my powers for good rather than evil because the stuff I was doing beforehand was for a late-night audience. It was the same sort of format - storytelling with music - but just a bit more risqué," Storen said.

"So I thought it would be really interesting to write a show for families and see if I cannot sweat and see if it translates."

"I have five melons and I would really like them to come and see it."

Aimed at audiences aged eight and over, the stopgap production, featuring visuals and illustrations, marks the debut for Storen's new production company, Whiskey & Boots.

Sarah Fitzpatrick

THE ESSENTIALS

WHAT: Benjamin & Me performed for the AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things

WHERE: The Blue Room Theatre, Northbridge

WHEN: October 6-11 and 13-24

TICKETS: bluesroom.org.au

Community News |
 11/09/2015

Online

Mark Storen to have an AWESOME time with Benjamin & Me

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Sara Fitzpatrick | September 11, 2015, 2:00 PM | ALL TITLES



Mark Storen. Picture: Andrew Ritchie [Click here to buy this photo](#)

PERHAPS it's *Ham on Rye*, *The Bell Jar*, *The Virgin Suicides* or *Catcher in the Rye*.

We all have a favourite coming-of-age narrative that weaves an unforgettable kind of magic.

Mark Storen takes great pleasure in highlighting the pivotal moments from boyhood to adulthood in his latest work.

Departing from his usual – more adult-themed – productions, the Perth writer-performer-musician presents *Benjamin & Me* for the AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things in October.

A coming-of-age musical adventure, it follows the story of a wildly imaginative boy, Will, and his furry best friend, Benjamin.

"These two characters are great mates and they experience a couple of milestones together that really challenge them and shape how they will move into the next stage of their lives," Storen said.

The charismatic theatre-maker, known for cabaret, drew from his boyhood when creating Will's world.

Inspiration came from eccentric family members, the love of his former best mate, Sasha the silky terrier, and wayward adolescent antics like infiltrating his parents' liquor cabinet.

"My grandmother was a pretty interesting lady and often liked to crawl in through windows instead of using the door," Storen explained.

"Will's family is quirky in that they support following a different path.

"His dad is an inventor-of-sorts and has a shed kitted out with all these crazy contraptions. He tells Will to go in and make whatever he wants, so Will makes the first boy-dog operated flying machine and he and Benjamin go on an adventure."

Penning family-friendly material was a challenge for Storen, but one he plans to pursue with future projects.

"I guess I decided to use my powers for good rather than evil because the stuff I was doing before was for a late-night audience. It was the same sort of format – storytelling with music – but just a bit more risqué," Storen said.

"So I thought it would be really interesting to write a show for families and see if I can not swear and see if it translates.

"I have five nieces and I would really like them to come and see it."

Aimed at audiences aged eight and over, the stripped-back production, featuring ukulele and illustrations, marks the debut for Storen's new production company, Whiskey & Boots.

THE ESSENTIALS

What: *Benjamin & Me* performed at AWESOME International Arts Festival for Bright Young Things

Where: The Blue Room Theatre, Northbridge

When: October 6-11 and 13-24

Tickets: www.blueroom.org.au

<http://bit.ly/1Ey5vLD>

stage

Dog, fun where there's a Will

FRANKIE'S a hero on stage. The duo The Young Things are celebrating their 10th anniversary with a new album, *Young Things*, and a new live show, *Young Things Live*.

Mark Steven has great pleasure in highlighting the performance of an independent local band that really challenge themselves on the stage of the live music scene," Steven said.

The album is the duo's most ambitious to date, featuring a variety of styles and genres. "We've been working on it for a while now, and we're really excited to share it with our fans," Steven said.

Mark Steven was inspired by the duo's approach to live music. "They've got a great sense of humour and a great sense of rhythm. It's a real joy to watch them perform," Steven said.

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Mark Steven was inspired by the duo's approach to live music. "They've got a great sense of humour and a great sense of rhythm. It's a real joy to watch them perform," Steven said.



THE ESSENTIALS

Mark Steven was inspired by the duo's approach to live music. "They've got a great sense of humour and a great sense of rhythm. It's a real joy to watch them perform," Steven said.

Radio Interviews

RFR FM | Breakfast With Caitlyn
06/10/2015
<http://bit.ly/1kOv1oU>

Radio Fremantle | Dita Jevons
24/09/2015

Video Interview

The Popcorn Show
04/10/2015
<https://youtu.be/6NnW5mSzNKc>

The Couch
11/10/2015
<https://youtu.be/eNLdUdt45TA>

Reviews

ArtsHub | Nerida Dickenson
23/10/2015
<http://bit.ly/1MCG8w0>

An imaginative narrative featuring great ideas, true friendship and jaunty ukulele.



Benjamin & Me celebrates childhood's leaps of imagination, big dreams and fond attachments. Part of the AWESOME Festival, children are treated to 50 minutes of storytelling through dialogue (with special voices for each part), songs and flip chart drawings.

Stage Whispers | Kimberly Shaw

<http://bit.ly/20049Xk>

Benjamin and Me



Written and directed by Mark Storen. Whiskey and Boots. The Blue Room Theatre, Perth. October 6-11, 2015

Benjamin and Me is presented by Whiskey and Boots as part of the Awesome International Festival for bright young things. Essentially really good storytelling, this low tech (apart from some cool lighting and smoke effects), theatre production is very simple theatre with a reliance on a good story and a dynamic actor.

Writer/Director/Performer Mark Storen tells a wonderfully complex story about a boy and his dog, that combines science fiction with steam-punk, boys' own adventure and a touch of international espionage.

Its success relies chiefly on Storen's ability to engage his young audience, as he takes them on a wonderful journey, completely underscored by self-accompanied ukulele. Another important element is engaging child-like illustrations by Jacinta Larcombe that help add colour and life.

Young fans of 'Andy Griffiths' style writing will appreciate this adventurous story with a lovely sense of the bizarre. A great way to spend an hour of the school holidays.

Kimberley Shaw

Perth Culture | Tabetha Beggs

13/10/2015

<http://bit.ly/1MLLwJ8>



Benjamin & Me

6 – 24 October 2015

The Blue Room, Northbridge

Mark Storen, Perth's king of the yarn brings his new show *Benjamin and Me*, to life in his signature storytelling style.

Armed with his trusty ukulele, Storen creates his own atmospheric soundtrack as he tells the story of Will and his best friend (and dog) Benjamin as they try to evade the evil Splinter McGee that is set to steal all their inventive ideas. Add to this a family secret and the first ever boy-dog operated flying machine and you are sure to be swept away on this wildly imaginative adventure. Be warned if you love your dog as much as Will does, you may need tissues at the end.

Storen's self penned story is laced with catchy ditties and accompanied by the quirky cartoonish artwork of Jacinta Larcombe.

It's a great one man show, which leaves you a little exhausted by the enormity of the plot. A bit like waking up from a complicated and exciting dream and trying to explain it to someone else in the morning.

Get along now for a great adventure. Book [here](#).