

Creature

a retelling of
Dot and the Kangaroo

First commissioned by QPAC for the 2016 Out of the Box Festival for Children 8 years and under.

Creature is a new children's theatre work based on Ethel C Pedley's iconic Australian classic *Dot and the Kangaroo*. It has breathtaking aerials and acrobatics, stunning 3-D projection work, beautiful song and text and has been adapted by one of Australian leading playwrights John Romeril.

Duration:
45 Minutes

Audience:
Suitable for All Ages but targeted at 5-8 Years.

Apparently this is theatre for children aged 5 to 8. That seems so unfair. This is so stunningly beautiful and touching "children" of all ages should come away with a smile

Susan Hetherington, ABC.



S T A L K E R



Creature

A retelling of the 1899 Australian classic *Dot and the Kangaroo* written by Ethel C. Pedley, 5-year-old Dot is lost in the bush and is rescued by a kangaroo. The kangaroo gives Dot magical “berries of understanding” and she can immediately comprehend the language of all the animals and insects around her. It is a revelation to her. Dot and the Kangaroo then set out on an action packed 4 day journey to return Dot to her homestead. This changes the way Dot views the Australian bush forever.

Meet our indigenous flora and fauna, see a myriad of creatures in their natural habitat, and explore their quirky characteristics amidst the beauty and fragility of the Australian bush. But how long before this unique native wildlife disappears as we humans encroach on their habitat and push them off the land? *Creature* invites you to enter the magical world of the Australian bush to explore how our actions affect the animals.

To the children of Australia, in the hope of enlisting their sympathies for the many beautiful, amiable and frolicsome creatures of their fair land, whose extinction, through ruthless destruction, whose extinction, through ruthless destruction, is being surely accomplished.

Ethel C. Pedley

CREATIVE TEAM

Co Directors

David Clarkson and Cristabel Sved

Writer

John Romeril

Composer

Peter Kennard

Choreography

Dean Walsh

Digital Designers

Andrew Bluff,
Boris Bagattini,
Andrew Johnston

Costume Design

Annemarie Dalzeil

Lighting Design

Ross Graham

Concept

Margie Breen and David Clarkson

Dramaturgy

Margie Breen

DIRECTOR'S QUOTE

Creature came to life from a seed commission to make an interactive projection event based around the flora and fauna of the Bundanon Trust. Children in particular were enthralled by the work we made and I thought- “right- this is a kids show in the making.” Margie Breen the dramatic consultant on *Creature* then had the bright idea that the work could be based around the Australian classic *Dot and the Kangaroo*.

What struck me about the book was the deep love of the Australian bush that *Dot and the Kangaroo* engenders in its audience.

Add one of Australia's leading playwrights: John Romeril and Stalker Theatres physical theatre and projection technology skill base and we were well on the way to making *Creature*!

Currently my favorite part of the show is during the Bronze Wing Pigeon scene. What I love about this moment is that we have somehow managed to create a space where the peace, tranquility and vulnerability of the Australian bush comes to life. The aerial physicality of the performers, the animation and interactive technology coupled with the soundscape all add towards a quietly breathtaking moment. With *Creature* there are a number of narrative themes, but for me the heart of the work is about Dot's journey of learning: to care and respect the beautiful creatures of the Australian landscape. This moment has it.

The other moment I continue to love is the line “know too much and you will be farting worse than a wallaby” You can't beat a good fart joke in children's theatre! It brings the house down every time.

Supporters of Creature



Supporters of Stalker







Thank you for taking the time to consider *Creature: Dot and the Kangaroo* for your programme.

Creature: Dot and the Kangaroo is a 45 minutes' piece designed for children 8 years and under (with appeal for the whole family)

Stalker's touring company consists of

5 performers (3 Aerialists and 2 x Actor/Musicians)

2 x Technicians –Who between them take on the roles of Production manager, Rigger, Sound or LX Operation and Stage Management.

Our Artistic Director- David Clarkson, travels with the company on many occasions and our management team will occasionally travel with the company- this depends on the scale of the project in any given region and should be discussed with us.

The weekly fee is anticipated to be in the region of AUD25,000 excluding travel, accommodation, per diems and Freight.

Stalker is committed to working with you to engage partners to the project that may be able to assist with these costs and we are applying for international funding within Australia also.

We can schedule up to 12 performances in any one week. The show will be ready to tour internationally from May 2017 and into 2018 & 2019.

Please also take a moment to look at our installation play space that can either accompany the show or tour independently.

We can create an immersive playground whether on just one small wall or in a full 360 surround. We have content that features the Australian Bush or we can work with you to develop content appropriate for your region.

Costs for this are dependent on space and equipment availability- We can determine this with a short discussion with you.

This can work as an excellent education and engagement offer alongside the main production.

If you have any further questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact me.

We look forward to speaking with you further.

Best Wishes

Katherine Budd | General Manager

Stalker Theatre

katherine@stalker.com.au

www.stalker.com.au

Mobile: + 61 4 9747 1111

Office: +61 2 9043 6908

Level 2, 71-73 Chandos Street, St Leonards, NSW 2065







CREATURE

AN ADAPTATION OF DOT AND THE KANGAROO

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Version B: 27 July 2016

Produced by
Stalker Theatre Inc.

The following requirements for *Creature* have been prepared based on its premiere season at Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Australia in June 2016.

The production may undergo a final development stage, and therefore retains a certain amount of flexibility within the below specifications. Therefore, all requirements are to be confirmed with Stalker Theatre Inc. prior to presentation.

Contact Information

STALKER THEATRE INC.

Phone	+612 9043 6908	
Email	admin@stalker.com.au	
Address	Level 2, 71-73 Chandos Street ST LEONARDS NSW AUSTRALIA 2065	
Website	www.stalker.com.au	
Katherine Budd	General Manager	katherine@stalker.com.au
David Clarkson	Director	david@stalker.com.au
Mark Haslam	Production Manager	mdhaslam@gmail.com

General Description

PERFORMANCE

Total Show Running Time: 50 minutes

Creature is an immersive performance for children combining theatre, projection, live music and aerial dance. The piece is an adaption of the 1899 children's book *Dot and the Kangaroo* by Ethel C. Pedley. It features the use of interactive projection technology to build digital environments that respond to the choreography of the performers.

The performance is designed for indoor presentation and can be adapted to fit a range of performance environments.

Travelling Company

1 x Production Manager / lighting technician
1 x Digital Technician / Rigger
5 x Performers
1 x Director

Total: 8 personnel

CREATURE – THE INSTALLATION

Creature the installation is a separate workshop playspace for children, using similar interactive projection technology as featured in the performance. This installation can either run in a separate space to the performance, on stage following the performance, or can be arranged individually in a room or indoor/outdoor location without the performance.

The installation invites children to explore the Australian bush and interact with its inhabitants, using infrared technology to connect the audience with the projected landscape and wildlife.

Lighting Requirements

The lighting design and following lighting plan for *Creature* is specified for its debut performance, which premiered in a 2000 seat lyric theatre. The lighting rig can be reduced to suit venues of all shapes and sizes, and should be confirmed with Stalker Theatre Management prior to commencement.

Lighting fixtures will be drawn from venue stock as best as possible, but additional hires may be required,

A venue specific lighting plan and associated documentation will be forwarded to your venue upon consultation, and subject to receipt of venue plans

Venue to provide:

Control:

- FOH operating position with good visual and aural orientation to stage
- Lighting Console – GrandMA 2 (can be PC, lite or full size)
- Adequate power and data cabling to each side of stage for sidelight
- Non-dim power and data runs to MAC VIPER location in the grid.

Luminaires:

- 3 x MAC VIPER Profile moving lights (company may tour with these. Please confirm prior)
- 98 x Source 4 26° or similar (can be reduced to suit venue)
- 24 x Selecon Zoom 12°-28° or similar (can be reduced to suit venue)

Other Equipment:

- Lighting ladders or booms to suit venue specific lighting plan
- boom arms or clamps to suit rigging on booms or lighting ladders
- bar on droppers from LX bar to position MAC VIPER's (see plan)
- Lighting gel to suit venue specific lighting plan. Must be cut prior to company arrival
- All access equipment to reach top of lighting ladders, and a lifting device to reach MAC VIPER moving lights if necessary as they will not be able to fly in around show rigging.

Stalker Theatre to provide:

- Company travels with lighting operator and show file (GrandMA 2)



CREATURE – PERFORMANCE

Venue Requirements

1. The show is designed for a stage dimension of 14m wide x 12m deep (hanging projection screen to audience line) but can be adjusted to a minimum of 10m wide x 8m deep. Please contact the company to determine whether the venue is suitable.
2. The show requires overhead rigging points above performance area (*see rigging requirements below*). These rigging points would ideally be 9m from stage level, but the performance can be adjusted to suit a minimum of 6m from stage level. There can be no obstructions between the stage level and grid height.
3. Projector(s) may be required to be supplied by the venue. *See projection requirements.*
4. A professional audio system is required, with possible radio microphones. *See sound requirements.*
5. Lighting fixtures and control will be required, and dimmer patches will be required on the floor on each side of the stage. *See lighting requirements.*
6. *Creature* requires a large projection surface behind the performance area, which may be a screen, cyclorama or, in some cases where appropriate, the rear wall of the theatre. Rear projection can also be a possibility.

It is important that the material used for the screen is not shiny, or does not have any sheen or reflectivity.

The ideal screen size for the performance is 16m wide x 9m high, but can be adjusted to a minimum of 11m wide x 6m high.

7. Black masking will be required in the wings of the space to hide lighting booms. The exact amount will be determined by the production manager on a venue by venue basis.
8. A fly tower will not be required for the performance, unless the fly tower can be utilised to support the overhead rigging points.
9. At least three dressing rooms (1 x Male; 2 x Female) must be supplied complete with toilet, sink, warm shower and clothes rack.
10. A green room is to be supplied with appropriate amenities including tea, coffee, biscuits and fresh milk.
11. The venue must have adequate storage for three (3) touring cases (see freight list)
12. Appropriate washing and drying facilities are required on site. In the case that a venue does not have these facilities an appropriate wash service should be provided at the cost to the presenter.
13. Adequate access must be supplied for the duration of the delivery of production elements by truck, and pick up upon completion. Please notify Stalker Theatre early if a forklift will be available on site. This may change how the show is packed for freight.

Venue CAD plans, and photos of the stage, grid and back wall will need to be submitted to the company prior to agreement.

Stage Requirements

The show works best with a stage dimension of 14m wide x 12m deep (projection surface to setting line), but can be adjusted to suit a minimum stage size of 10m wide x 8m deep. The stage must be a flat level surface, and have no impairments that may cause injury to dancers. If this condition cannot be met, black tarket (dance floor) is to be laid to cover the entire performance area to ensure safety for the performers.

A raked stage floor is unlikely to be acceptable for the performance.

Wing space on both sides, or clear access to a dressing area, will be required.

The stage floor must be swept and mopped prior to each performance.

The security of all Stalker Theatre equipment, properties and personal belongings is to be guaranteed by the venue from load-in to the load-out of the production.

From the commencement of bump-in, access into the venue is to be restricted to Stalker Theatre only. Adequate access measures and security must be prepared prior to arrival.

Projection Requirements

Creature utilises HD projectors and infrared tracking systems to create an interactive environment. Projection mapping is also a key part of the performance.

Appropriate conditions allowing a **complete blackout** of the stage will be required.

Projector placement can be in either of the following locations –

- Above the downstage centre position at a height that matches the height of the screen
- At the operations position, pending distance and suitability of the projector and lens
- Behind the screen (rear projection), pending distance available and suitability of the venue supplied projection material for rear projection

Wider projection surfaces or lower spec projectors may require the use of multiple projectors with edge blending employed.

Stalker Theatre can tour with projectors, but pending on the venue size, distance and projection surface the venue may be required to provide a more powerful projector. Please liaise with the Stalker Theatre production manager to determine the projector suitability.

If the venue is required to provide a projector, the minimum specification will be a 10,000 lumen HD projector with HDMI input. An example model is a Barco RLS-W12 or similar.

Venue to provide:

- Projection surface – either a screen, cyclorama or back wall of venue. Please confirm suitability with Stalker Theatre production manager.
- Projector(s) – pending venue specifications and/or use of installation in addition to the performance.

Stalker Theatre to provide:

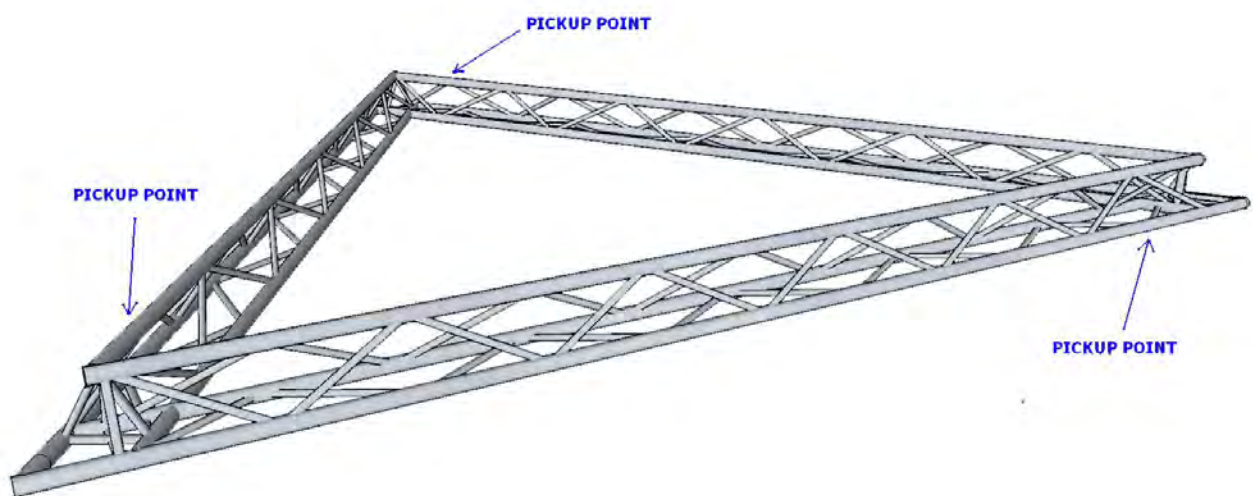
- Projectors (pending venue specifications) and associated HDMI cabling
- 1 x Point-grey Infrared camera
- 2 x Macbook Pro computers running Pure Data and Resolume

Rigging Requirements

The production requires the overhead rigging of an equilateral triangle with 6m sides constructed of 300mm tri-truss (Stalker Theatre to provide). It is designed to be rigged in a range of ways depending on the structure of the venue.

The truss triangle can be constructed on the stage, then lifted to height via fly lines or chain blocks/motors. It then requires an additional 3 pickup points (minimum), to be rigged from rated overhead fixed attachment points (venue grid or similar). The truss triangle is then strapped off to the sides of the venue to prevent any movement when set.

The ideal height for the truss triangle is 9m, but can be set at a minimum of 6m from stage.



Venue to provide:

- Clear and recent CAD plans showing both plan and section views of the space
- Appropriate pick up points for the truss structure, photos of proposed rigging points (if possible) and evidence of load-rating capabilities of pick-up points
- A single-man-lift or similar to assist in rigging, capable of reaching a 9m height
- Rigging equipment to suspend the truss triangle from venue pickup points.

Stalker Theatre to provide:

- Plan of rigging location in venue
- 6 x 2m lengths of 300mm tri-truss, 3 x 60° truss corners and all associated spigots and clips.
- All slings and associated rigging required for the performance

Lighting Requirements

The lighting design and following lighting plan for *Creature* is specified for its debut performance, which premiered in a 2000 seat lyric theatre. The lighting rig can be reduced to suit venues of all shapes and sizes, and should be confirmed with Stalker Theatre Management prior to commencement.

Lighting fixtures will be drawn from venue stock as best as possible, but additional hires may be required,

A venue specific lighting plan and associated documentation will be forwarded to your venue upon consultation, and subject to receipt of venue plans

Venue to provide:

Control:

- FOH operating position with good visual and aural orientation to stage
- Lighting Console – GrandMA 2 (can be PC, lite or full size)
- Adequate power and data cabling to each side of stage for sidelight
- Non-dim power and data runs to MAC VIPER location in the grid.

Luminaires:

- 3 x MAC VIPER Profile moving lights (company may tour with these. Please confirm prior)
- 98 x Source 4 26° or similar (can be reduced to suit venue)
- 24 x Selecon Zoom 12°-28° or similar (can be reduced to suit venue)

Other Equipment:

- Lighting ladders or booms to suit venue specific lighting plan
- boom arms or clamps to suit rigging on booms or lighting ladders
- bar on droppers from LX bar to position MAC VIPER's (see plan)
- Lighting gel to suit venue specific lighting plan. Must be cut prior to company arrival
- All access equipment to reach top of lighting ladders, and a lifting device to reach MAC VIPER moving lights if necessary as they will not be able to fly in around show rigging.

Stalker Theatre to provide:

- Company travels with lighting operator and show file (GrandMA 2)

Sound Requirements

The audio for *Creature* is a combination of live instrumentation and pre-recorded sound effects.

Venue to provide:

System

- Complete PA system able to produce 110db of undistorted level at the mix position. System should include subs, EQ, cross over & system controller, with stereo L+R output.
- Surround speakers placed along auditorium sides (spaced approx 4m apart and 2m off floor height)
- 3 x Foldback speakers situated on stage at stage level
- 2 x Foldback speakers at approximately 4m height either side for aerialists

Control

- Digital console with capabilities for quick scene recall and on-board effects
- 10 inputs / 2 Aux / 6 outputs

Microphones (Stalker Theatre may tour with these. Please confirm)

- 1 x DPA 4099 clip on microphone
- 4 x DPA 4060 microphones (2 x cream; 2 x brown)
- 3 x channels of radio microphone (transmitters / receivers / antenna boost)

Other

- 6 x DI boxes

Stalker Theatre to provide:

- 1 x Macbook Pro running Ableton Live and Mainstage
- 1 x Audio interface (MOTU Ultralite or similar)

Stage Management Requirements

Position

The show is operated solely by the production manager, with the technical elements networked together. Therefore, it is essential that the operation positions be set up together in the auditorium as close to centre as possible with a clear, uninterrupted view of the stage.

Operating position requirements

The stage management position requires the following:

- 2 x sets of comms to allow clear communication between operators and back of house
- 3 x desk lamps
- 1 x microphone for stage / dressing room announcements

Consumables

Presenter to Provide

- Non-Carbonated bottled water or water cooler, tea & coffee available in greenroom, theatre and warm up space for all rehearsals and shows.
- Fresh fruit, nuts, and powered energy drink mixes are appreciated
- Suitable first aid facilitates / resources available at venue, including ice packs and Band-Aids.
- Mentholated Spirits for use in cleaning/mopping the Tarkett (if using Tarkett)
- All Black Duct Tape or dance floor tape, and items required to lay the Tarkett
- Black Matt Gaff for taping musician leads
- White Gaff or Mark up tape on standby
- Laundry detergent

Wardrobe Requirements

Presenter to Provide

- A 4hr Call towards the end of each rehearsal and show day for a Wardrobe assistant to assist in washing and maintaining the costumes.
- Access to washing machines, hand washing station and stand up air dryers to facilitate cleaning during the season. Tumble Dryers are NOT suitable.
- Access to costume racks and coat hangers.
- Access to a sewing machine if required throughout the season.

Backstage Requirements

Presenter to Provide

- Dressing Rooms

Rooms must be for the exclusive use of the company during the season, from the bump in until the completion of the bump out. All Dressing Rooms must be cleaned before arrival and throughout the season. Each dressing room must have showers, toilets and hot and cold running water with at least 1 rack for hanging costumes, sufficient lighting, tables chairs bins and mirrors for performers to apply makeup.

Rooms Required: (unless otherwise agreed)

- Dressing rooms for Dir and TM, Min 1 room
- Dressing rooms for male performers; Min 1 room
- Dressing rooms for female performers; Min 1 room
- One dressing room / production office for production staff members (3 Pax). This must be a lockable room.
- Access for company to greenroom / kitchenette and wireless or other Internet access at the production office location.

Warm-Up Space

A suitable space for warm up and class is requested for the dancer's use prior to a performance and also on the days of Bump-In and rehearsals while the theatre stage is in use by production or the musicians.

Freight List

The production will tour with the following freight :

- Case 1** - 160cm L x 60cm W x 100cm H (100kg) {tech, cabling and costumes}
- Case 2** - 160cm L x 60cm W x 100cm H (100kg) {rigging equipment}
- Crate 3** - 200cm L x 120cm W x 60cm H (100kg) {truss triangle}

Case 1 and 2 are on wheels.

Crate 3 will require a pallet jack or forklift to move.

Safe and secure storage must be available for all freight elements during the season.





CREATURE - INSTALLATION

Overview

The *Creature* installation is an immersive video installation of the Australian bush and its inhabitants, with interactive elements manipulated by tracking audience members through infra-red cameras. It has an atmospheric soundtrack of Australian bush sounds running throughout the piece.

The installation can be setup as a single wall interactive projection, or up to four walls to create an immersive playspace for children.

Installation Location Requirements

The installation is capable of working in a wide variety of performance spaces. It can often be adapted to unusual or non-traditional performance spaces, and can setup either as a single wall interactive projection, or as an immersive playspace for children using 2, 3 or 4 walls or projection surfaces.

Single wall installation - Space requirements:

- Ideal projection wall size – 8m wide x 4.5m high, but can work on smaller and larger wall surfaces. Minimum wall size - 5m wide x 2.8m high
- A complete blackout of the area in front of the wall is desirable
- Wall must be a light colour capable of taking projection and relatively free of irregularities
- Adequate hanging facilities for the projector to be mounted at a suitable distance, as close as possible to the centre of the projection surface. Large walls may require two projector hanging positions.
- Floor in front of wall must be even, flat and free of obstacles
- Minimum 2 speaker PA system with small mixing desk for laptop feed.

2, 3 or 4 wall installation - Space requirements:

- A minimum room size of 8m x 8m is desirable
- A complete blackout of the space is essential
- All walls must be a light colour capable of taking projection and relatively free of irregularities
- Adequate hanging facilities allowing for 2, 3 or 4 projectors to be mounted in the middle of the space, each sitting as close as possible to the centre of the projection surface. If this is not possible a scaffold structure may need to be constructed in the middle of the space for projector placement
- Floor must be even, flat and free of obstacles
- Room must either have an audio system in place, or the ability to install an audio system for the installation (see audio requirements)

Projection Requirements

Creature - the installation utilises projectors and infrared tracking to create an interactive environment. Projection mapping is also a key part of the performance. As such appropriate conditions allowing a **complete blackout** of the space will be required.

Projector placement is best at a height just below the top of the projection surface and in the centre of the field of projection. Large projection surfaces are likely to require multiple projectors to be edge blended to achieve uniform intensity and pixel density on each of the proposed surfaces.

The venue may be required to provide projectors. Please liaise with Stalker Theatre prior to confirm projector requirements. All projectors used must be a minimum of 5000 lumens and capable of 1920 x 1080 (HD) projection.

Please contact Stalker Theatre to discuss any alternative arrangements your venue may require.

Venue to provide:

- 1, 2, 3 or 4 minimum 5000 lumen professional projectors with appropriate lenses to fill projection surfaces (pending installation size)
- 1 x Cat 6 cable run from operating position (corner of room) to projector position(s)
- Up to four Cat 6 cables to run from operating position to each of the projectors
- Projector hanging position(s) in suitable location from projection surface

Stalker Theatre to provide:

- HDMI cables and extenders
- Firewire cables, extenders and hubs
- Up to four Point-grey Infrared cameras with 2.8mm-8mm lenses
- 1 x PC running custom software
- 1 x MacBook Pro running custom software

Audio Requirements

Atmospheric sound of the Australian bush runs underneath the installation. Sound should encompass the space evenly. Focus should be on creating an unobtrusive profile with clarity of sound.

Venue to provide:

- Two to four small, full-range speakers (max 10")
- Small format mixer with a minimum of 4 inputs (1/4" TRS) and 4 separate sends
- Appropriate cabling to run between desk and speakers

Company to provide:

- 1 x MacBook Pro running Qlab
- 1 x Audio interface

