

# ***She Walks Beside His Shoes***

***Presenter pack***  
***Producer: Florence Teillet***



Photo by Chris Peckham

Written by Florence Teillet and Therese Collie  
Inspired by Jean Teillet's journal  
French resistant fighter during WW2  
Performed by Florence Teillet & Jeff Turpin  
Director: Therese Collie  
Designer: Georgina Greenhill  
Music: Jeff Turpin

An innovative, interactive theatre piece using shadow & hand puppetry, music, humour to tell a unique and moving migrant story of a father and daughter, of human survival, of Australia as a place of refuge, peace and new beginning

**THEATRE NUIT**  **JOUR**  
*PRODUCTIONS*

## COMPANY PROFILE

In 2004 Florence Teillet researched and curated the stories of elderly migrants in the Sunshine Coast region. This project inspired her to tell her father's story, to creatively address the repercussions of war on families and to give voice to another different Australian migrant experience.

Since 2007 Florence has worked with Writer/Director Therese Collie and other artists dedicated to quality art practices and cross cultural community issues, to develop a theatre piece based on her father, Jean Teillet's journal as a captured French resistance fighter during World War 2.

With Composer/Musician/Actor Jeff Turpin, Florence and Therese have formed a collaborative company called: **Theatre Nuit & Jour** to perform and promote the show: **She Walks Beside His Shoes** and to develop and conduct the accompanying workshops: **Out of the Shadow**. The show has subsequently been performed at Yandina RSL, Nambour Lind Lane Theatre and Maleny RSL. The show and workshops have been presented at Nambour State High School (twice) and Cooroy State High School (twice).

**The show:** contributes to the theatre sector by telling a unique Queensland story; employing an exciting integration of diverse art forms to create meaningful, engaging, inspiring theatre and using best practice audience development strategies. In Australia puppet shows have primarily been children's entertainment. **She Walks Beside His Shoes** uses puppets in a context aimed at adults and young adults, providing a different, poignant experience for its audiences.

**The workshops:** Artists will conduct shadow theatre workshops. Students will be encouraged to create their own short story supported by live music and sound effects. This process will provide cross-cultural understanding between school students and professional artists. The main objective is to celebrate cultural, personal and community stories via the medium of Storytelling, Shadow Theatre and Music. We feel this project is an inspiration for audiences of all ages. It raises vital questions for the future of healthy communities (eg. What effect does war have on family relationships? Why is it important to acknowledge the contributions older people still have to make? What can we learn from the rich and subtle details of Australian migrants' stories?)

The show, workshops and post-show discussion provide a strong platform for understanding these issues across generations and cultures while valuing the celebration of personal stories.

## ABOUT THE SHOW

*She Walks Beside His Shoes* concept & draft script was developed by Florence Teillet with Therese Collie as Dramaturge, funded by RADF in 2009. The aim has been to create an innovative, new, Australian play that is accessible, portable, low cost and ideal for small theatre spaces, schools and regional touring.

The script is based on Florence's dad's journal as WW2 resistance fighter, when at 17, he was captured and sent to concentration camps for two years. At the end of the war he escaped and walked for two months back home to freedom. In 2005 Florence

retraced his journey of escape 60 years to the day. Her father died six months later. In his flat she found letters written by her from the age of 10. These documents are the basis of the first draft script. It explores the impact this traumatic experience had on Florence's relationship with her father. It also reflects on her experience as a migrant artist who has called Australia (in particular the Sunshine Coast) home for the last 32 years.

Using puppets, humour and music, the play reveals the impact this traumatic experience had on Florence's relationship with her father as *she walks beside his shoes*. It also reflects on her experience as a migrant artist who has called Australia (particularly the Sunshine Coast) home for the last 28 years.

The play is a unique and moving story of a father and daughter, of human survival and the role humour, luck and stubbornness play in it. It is also a story of friends as family and the need for belonging, of Australia as a place of refuge, peace and new beginnings. It brings into focus an unfamiliar story of a father and daughter, of France and Australia and of war and peace. It addresses themes of human survival, displacement, and cultural and language barriers to communication and aims to inspire cross-generational dialogue.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Written by Florence Teillet and Therese Collie

Inspired by Jean Teillet's journal as French resistant fighter during WW2

Performed by Florence Teillet & Jeff Turpin

Director: Therese Collie

Set & costume Designer & builder: Georgina Greenhill

Music: Jeff Turpin

Video montage: Chris Peckham & James Cunningham

Major sponsor: Sunshine Coast RADF

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Therese Collie** (Writer/Director) A published playwright and experienced theatre director, in 2000, Therese was awarded an Australia Council Fellowship and The Playlab Award for her commitment to developing and presenting imaginative new work and fostering a sense of community in Qld. As a graduate of the Lecoq School of Theatre, Mime and Movement in Paris, Therese is well placed to transform text into a more visual, movement-based presentation. Her first hand knowledge of the French language and culture will further deepen the process of taking the concept from page to stage. Therese has extensive experience working on one person shows, notably the award-winning, innovative, circus theatre piece *Chinese Take Away* by Anna Yen, *Stand Up Benny Straight* for Kooemba Jdarra and *Pianissimo* by Christine Johnstone and Lisa O'Neill for QPAC. She has directed puppets in plays including *The Reunion Show* for Street Arts and *Jenny and the Tennis Nut* for Kite Theatre. Career highlights include: Published Plays- *Out Of The Blue*, *Goin' To The Island*, *Binni's Backyard*; Director/Co-creator- 2007 AWGIE award winner *Kese Solwata*; Writer/Director *Long Way Round* for the ATOM award-winning SBS drama series *Under The Skin* and Director- *Svetlana In Slingbacks* for La Boite Theatre.

**Florence Teillet** (Writer/Actor) is a French migrant, regional community artist, actor, director, workshop facilitator and teacher, specialising in clowning, puppetry and street theatre since 1982.

She completed a full time theatre course in Paris with La Compagnie du Theatre de L'Ombre (1984-1985). She also took part in two Australian creative development puppetry residencies with Peter J. Wilson from Handspan Theatre, Vic. (1990) and Noriko Nishimo from Spare Parts Theatre, W.A. (1991). She has worked in France and Australia as a street performer/actor and puppeteer including at the Adelaide International Puppet Festival in 1982 in *The Angler Fish Ballet* and in 2003 in *Horse to Water*, a music & theatre performance directed by Linsey Pollak for the Wataboshi International Festival Brisbane. A Sunshine Coast resident since 1995, she was a founder and director of PAKTI (Power of Arts: Key To Inclusion), which involved people with disabilities in cultural projects on the Sunshine Coast from 1995-2005. She was in charge of project coordination, cultural development, grant applications, artists' recruitment, budgeting, and administration for the successful PAKTI conferences funded by Arts Qld & The Australia Council. Since 2004, Florence has been the recipient of three RADF (Regional Arts Development Fund) grants to research and celebrate stories from elderly migrants. One of these was *One Suitcase (Stories of Migration)*, which she curated and exhibited successfully throughout the region. In 2009, 2010 and 2013 she received funding from Sunshine Coast RADF to develop and perform a theatre script, collaboratively with dramaturge Therese Collie, based on her Dad's story- *She Walks Beside His Shoes*.

**Jeff Turpin** (Composer/Musician/Actor) is a circus performer, clown, musician, composer, workshop facilitator and director who began working in the arts with Ian Reece and Children's Activity Groups Association, touring schools and communities for 8 years. It was with this company that he first worked with shadow puppetry. He is a circus juggling and manipulation teacher with a broad skills range. As a stage actor/clown he has toured internationally with Broadway & Co. (3 yrs), Anna Yen (duo), and regionally with raradada physical theatre, and scam and has also acted for video. He studied with Phillippe Gaulier and did a 6 month professional development project with Rock'n'Roll Circus. As music director/performer he has worked with slipstream circus, raradada (both in Tasmania) Broadway & Co, Children's Activity Groups (Far North Qld) and Dancing in the Streets project. He plays piano accordion and a variety of wind and stringed instruments in groups of genres from Rock through Klezmer, Tango, Gypsy Brass, Turkish Classical, Balkan Folk and Brazilian Choro. He has a Bachelor of Engineering and problem solving ability is one of his creative strengths both in devising and prop making.

**Georgina Greenhill** (Designer/Documentor) Born in Brazil of English parents who migrated to Australia in the 1960s, Georgina is an extremely experienced and highly skilled Production Designer and Art Director for film and television. These projects have included ones made in Thailand(as Vietnam) and The Philippines(as Cambodia in a French/Australian co-production), giving her the opportunity to explore those cultures in various eras. Other projects have been for children, allowing for more whimsy, fantasy and humour in her design. She also teaches English as a second language. These experiences and skills will greatly enhance the exploration of design and projected images on this project. Recently Georgina has worked on exhibition design, dramatised documentaries and installations where the abstract and illusory as well as historical recreation have accentuated the narrative.

## **PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS**

### **DURATION**

60mn

### **SUITABLE VENUES**

Indoors only

Small halls & Cultural facilities

Partly blacked out stage to accommodate shadow puppetry & video projection

Access to power

### **MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK**

10 performances per week

### **MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES**

1 hour for reset and actor's preparation

(One hour bump in one hour bump out)

### **LICENCING AGREEMENTS**

Florence & Therese share copyright on script

Jeff has copyright of original music

### **APRA OBLIGATIONS**

Jeff has copyright of original music

### **TOURING PERSONNEL**

Name	Role
Jeff Turpin	Actor/Workshop leader
Florence Teillet	Actor/Workshop leader
Therese Collie	Technician/Workshop leader

### **PERFORMANCE HISTORY**

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2012 & 2013	Noosa District High	2
2012 & 2013	Nambour high	2
2012	Yandina RSL Hall	1
2014	Lindlane Theatre Nambour	1
2014	Maleny RSL Hall	1

### **AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT**

**Post show discussion:** provides opportunities for audience to understand the issues relevant to WW2 and repercussion on families.

Also provide opportunities for audience to reflect on their own relationship with elders in their families (see testimonies)

## **The workshops:**

Participants will have opportunities to improve and develop skills in many areas such as:

- Team work, decision making, leadership and problem solving
- Develop self-esteem, self-worth and a sense of belonging
- Self-expression, inner resourcefulness and creativity
- Personal and social development
- Empower young people through an inclusive creative process
- Developing creative skills with professional artists

## **Testimonies from students:**

- The shadow puppets really emphasize the story
- It showed us some concept of wars and how countries are different
- I admire how many students actually participated in the show and the way they talked about their memories
- The students were able to compare their life with others less fortunate
- I see good teaching potential and how everyone has a story to share as well

## **DESCRIPTION / DETAILS**

The show will be presented prior to the workshops as an inspiration and starting point. Artists will conduct shadow theatre and music workshops. Participants will be encouraged to create their own short story supported by live music and sound effects to be presented in an informal community event for members of the community & school students followed by discussion

Workshop minimum length: 2h. Material provided

## **COST**

\$2 per students

## **TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Target audience minimum age: 11

Workshop will occur in schools mainly or via local arts Council branch (could be a week end or school holiday program)

## **MARKETING COPY**

### ***One line***

An innovative, interactive theatre piece, a unique and moving migrant story of a father and daughter

### ***Short***

An innovative, interactive theatre piece using shadow & hand puppetry, music, humour to tell a unique and moving migrant story of a father and daughter, of human survival, of Australia as a place of refuge, peace and new beginning.

Florence shares her story with honesty and passion and, in an intelligent and unsentimental way, asks her audience: What is the relevance of the past to the present? What effect does war have on family relationships, particularly between a father and a daughter? What can we learn from the rich and subtle details of Australian migrants' stories?

## **Extended**

*She Walks Beside His Shoes*, by French migrant artist Florence Teillet, is a play inspired by her father's journal as a WW2 resistance fighter. At 17, Jean Teillet was captured and sent to concentration camps. At the end of the war he escaped and walked for two months back home to freedom. In 2005 Florence retraced his journey of escape 60 years to the day!

Using puppets, humour and music, the play reveals the impact this traumatic experience had on Florence's relationship with her father as *she walks beside his shoes*. It also reflects on her experience as a migrant artist who has called Australia (particularly the Sunshine Coast) home for the last 28 years.

The play is a unique and moving story of a father and daughter, of human survival and the role humour, luck and stubbornness play in it. It is also a story of friends as family and the need for belonging, of Australia as a place of refuge, peace and new beginnings.

Florence shares her story with honesty and passion and, in an intelligent and un sentimental way, asks her audience: What is the relevance of the past to the present? What effect does war have on family relationships, particularly between a father and a daughter? What can we learn from the rich and subtle details of Australian migrants' stories?

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Performed by Florence Teillet, Jeff Turpin, Therese Collie

## **MARKETING SUMMARY**

Available on request:

Template poster

Teacher's notes

Testimonies

Local media always responsive to a great authentic story

Local RSL branch always interested to support as well in a mean of free venue and free publicity

## **MEDIA QUOTES**

Helping to heal the scars of war, Florence shares her story with honesty and passion and, in an intelligent and un sentimental way. *Sunshine Coast Daily*

Nominated twice for Multicultural award and finalist in Regional Art & Culture award, Florence tells true story of fight for survival, an amazing true life tale. *The Noosa Journal*

Media clipping available on request [florence88@gmail.com](mailto:florence88@gmail.com)

## **AUDIENCE REVIEWS**

A polished performance, congratulation to all the production team. I am most touched by your performance in honouring your father's survival and the impact this had on you and your yearning for closeness. In doing this I believe you have honoured many untold stories of fathers being restrained in connecting with their sons & daughters, liberating them with a sense of hope and acceptance. I think your story had a lasting impact beyond its WWII roots to include father daughter relationships. Many fathers are fighting their own survival in the war of our patriarchal society that prevents a closeness between fathers and their children. This is a nice and alternate way to portray the metaphor.

Peter Pendlebury, Men's counsellor-Toowoomba

*Florence Teillet's honesty and passion in sharing the story of her father's journey and their relationship is palpable, heartfelt and poignant; I laughed and cried, it is simply beautiful and reminds us all of what life is about. I hope to see it many more times. Kath Williams*

*Congratulations on your wonderful play last Sunday. There was lots of food for thought eg the impact of war on survivors, the development parent-child relations beyond the superficial level as the years progress. I also liked the imaginative use of puppets, humour, balancing tricks, juggling. Ted Land*

*A truly inspiring insight in the emotional journey of a formerly French national and her life long relationship with a father she had thought indifferent. Little did she know that her father, a French Resistance member and concentration camp survivor nourished a deep love for his exiled daughter. Great show, great delivery, the props were succinct but full of meaning and oh! So quintessential French. Work in progress but definitively on the right track, can't wait to see the full production. Noelle Mcleod*

## **COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS**

PUPPETEER INSPIRES SENIOR STUDENTS by Louize Lyle, Head of Performing Arts  
Noosa District High

French migrant, Florence Teittet, a Sunshine Coast resident for 28 years, presented her story to an enraptured group of young actors and writers in Performing Arts. She Walks Beside His Shoes, a moving story about her father, his journal and her relationship with the man she hardly knew. French glove puppetry is the vehicle for Florence Teittet to tell the story of her father, Jean Teillet, a survivor of Nazi concentration camps and a WW2 resistance fighter. Her visit strongly emphasized the importance of our elders and what we might learn from them. The presentation helped students to understand the complexities of producing one's own piece of theatre but also demonstrated that persistence is the key to success.

## **VIDEO LINKS**

Join us on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/shewalksbesidehisshoesproject>

Watch our promo DVD (3mn):

<http://vimeo.com/florenceteillet/shewalksbesidehisshoes>

## **IMAGES**

Lot more photos available on request: [florence88@gmail.com](mailto:florence88@gmail.com)

Or on facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/shewalksbesidehisshoesproject>





Photo Kathy Walker



Photo Georgina Greenhill



Photo Chris Peckham



Photo Kathy Walker

## **MARKETING MATERIALS**

- Template poster
- Teacher's notes
- Audience & students testimonies

## **SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Major sponsor: Sunshine Coast RADF



The Regional Arts Development Fund is a Sunshine Coast Council and Queensland Government partnership to support local arts and culture.

## **TEACHER'S RESOURCES**

Yes notes on how the content addresses curriculum for

## **PRODUCTION DETAILS**

### TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Two hours bump in in theatre with lighting operator & desk  
or one hour in schools with minimal lights

### CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Theatre:  
Lighting operator (one hour before the show)  
FOH  
School  
Minimum lights self-operated if possible

### **STAGE**

*Theatre Nuit & Jour to supply*  
Set, Costume, Props  
Screen and light for shadow images  
Instruments (accordion & spoon guitar)  
DVD player with remote  
Workshop material for students provided  
*Venue to supply*  
Performing space dimensions: 3000 wide x 5000 deep and 2400 high

### **LIGHTING**

General wash of stage  
2 specials: 1 stage left & 1 stage right  
Lights accommodate the centre stage screen used for shadow puppetry and rear video projection

*Theatre Nuit & Jour to supply*  
Lighting plot  
Shadow theatre light & screen and operator

*Venue to supply*  
Minimum 6 lights (4 for general wash, 2 specials)  
Lighting operator  
Lighting desk

### **SOUND**

Live music, and pre-recorded sound from small sound system on stage

*Theatre Nuit & Jour to supply*  
Small PA

*Venue to supply*  
Nothing

### **AV**

Rear projection of images and film operated from stage

*Theatre Nuit & Jour to supply*  
DVD & shadow light & operator of Video recordings

*Venue to supply*  
Nothing

## **WARDROBE**

*Theatre Nuit & Jour to supply*

All costumes & props

*Venue to supply*

Dressing room

Washing machine if possible

## **FREIGHT NOTES**

3 people and the set can fit into a small van or a big station wagon.

Close access to venue is sufficient

All equipment can be carried by the crew

## **CRITICAL ISSUES**

Partial Black out of the stage for shadow puppetry and rear video projection is important

Raised stage preferable

## **CONTACTS**

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