

Artwork by Penny Challen

# THE OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT

## PRESENTER INFORMATION



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## ABOUT THE SHOW

The Owl and the Pussycat by Edward Lear is an enduring and beloved piece of poetry and nostalgia, first published in 1871 as part of his book *Nonsense Songs, Stories, Botany, and Alphabets*. This irresistible blend of romance and nonsense tells of the love between the two title characters, who sail together for a year and a day to the land “where the Bong-tree grows”. They discover a pig with a ring in his nose, buy it for a shilling and are married by a turkey the very next day.

This reimagining of Edward Lear’s beloved childhood poem is an enchanting and intimate musical experience. This charming children’s work melds live performance, operatic vocals, chamber music, puppetry and experiential theatre inside a giant green boat and immersive landscape. Created specifically for children 4-10 years, this interactive journey inspires, educates and enthralls by inviting children, alongside their families, carers and teachers, to participate in musical and multi-sensory ways to help our lovable couple reach their destination.

Designed for festival locations and adaptable to theatre spaces (black box and proscenium stage), children are invited aboard a giant green pea boat for a 45-minute performance. An intimate setting is created with mixed pea cushions and benches, and a limited capacity of 120 people. Audience members will be integrated into the action with interactive theatrical devices, designed to spark imaginative thought with strong tactile and aural stimulation. The cast consists of 3 singers, soprano, mezzo-soprano and baritone, and a chamber ensemble of cello, clarinet/bass clarinet and vibraphone. The new score will include interactive musical segments, some spoken delivery and will be integrated with Kodaly early childhood education principles.

This national collaboration of female creatives, including Penny Challen (Opera Q Project Puccini), Kathryn Marquet (La Boite, QT, Pale Blue Dot), Bridget Boyle (QT, debase productions), Lisa Cheney (Making Waves, MSO, TSO) and Alicia Cush (Opera Q, Circa) will create a landmark musical work for children exploring the universal themes of love, adventure, harmony and acceptance.

The Owl and the Pussycat has been created with the support of:  
Festival 2018, Flowstate & Southbank Corporation, Brisbane City Council – Creative Sparks, APRA AMCOS Art Music Fund, Creative Partnerships Australia MATCH Program, Queensland Theatre – Independents Artists Program  
Rehearsal Venue Partners: Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University & Opera Q

## MARKETING COPY

*In a pea green boat, an owl and a pussycat sail across the sea for a year and a day to fair Bong-tree Bay. Adventure calls, new encounters await and love conquers all in a nostalgic musical journey with an irresistible blend of romance and nonsense.*

*The Owl and the Pussycat is an enchanting and intimate theatrical experience for families. Be swept away in this all-new opera with stunning vocals, interactive theatre and a troupe of musical Puffins. Aboard a magical pea green boat, this charming work explores the universal themes of love, harmony and acceptance.*

## CAST AND CREATIVES LIST

Creative Producer:	Alicia Cush
Designer/Producer:	Penny Challen
Director:	Bridget Boyle
Writer/Librettist:	Kathryn Marquet
Composer:	Lisa Cheney
Dramaturg:	Jane Bodie
Lighting Designer:	Geoff Squires
Production Manager:	Kylie Mitchell
Design Assistant:	Caitlin Strongarm
Pussycat:	Irena Lysiuk
Owl:	Sarah Murr
Moon/Piggy-wig/Turkey Prophet/ Mice/Honey Bear/	Jackson McGovern
Musical Puffins:	Vibraphone/Percussion – Rebecca Lloyd-Jones, Cello – Kathryn McKee, Clarinet/Bass Clarinet – Annie Larsen
Assistant Musical Director:	Luke Volker

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Little Match Productions is an independent Brisbane-based company that creates contemporary musical performance works that traverse comedy-cabaret, opera, classical music and children's theatre. The company is passionate about exploring our collective humanity via its most primal and intrinsically expressive media - the voice. Over the past six years, Artistic Director Alicia Cush, Creative Producer Bethan Ellsmore & Designer Penny Challen have developed a reputation for their unique ability to present classical vocal techniques in innovative contemporary contexts.

Creating works for the cabaret group Babushka, operatic ensemble Belladiva, and cabaret artist Bethan Ellsmore, Little Match Productions has a focus on creating roles, collaborations and opportunities for female artists and arts professionals. Their works fuse opera, classical, cabaret and pop in theatrical musical experiences that combine arresting and original musical arrangements, vocal acrobatics and compelling storytelling.

## ABOUT THE CAST AND CREATIVES

### **Sarah Murr - Owl**

Sarah is a 2015 graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University. Following graduation, Sarah joined the Australian and International touring casts of *Les Misérables*, as first cover for Madame Thénardier. She has also performed as Tracy Turnblad in *Hairspray* and as Paquette in *Candide* with Opera Queensland.

### **Irena Lysiuk - Pussycat**

Irena is a classically trained, versatile soprano with over 10 years of performance experience. With a Bachelor of Music in Performance and a Graduate Diploma of Music Studies in opera, Irena has performed the roles of Gretel in *Hansel and Gretel* and Adina in *Fizz!*, with Opera Queensland's touring programs.

### **Jackson McGovern – Moon/Piggy-Wig/Turkey Prophet/Mice/Honey Bear**

A graduate of the Queensland Conservatorium's Bachelor of Musical Theatre program, Jackson has already begun to make his mark on the professional scene. Stage credits include Josh in *Wax Lyrical's* production of *Nineteen*, Hunter in [Title of Show] for Understudy Productions, and Mark Cohen in *Rent* at Melt Festival.

### **ALICIA CUSH – Creative Producer/Musical Director**

Alicia is a Brisbane-based performer, musical director, arranger and independent producer. Currently, Alicia is a touring vocalist/instrumentalist with *Circa Contemporary Circus* and the Creative Director of Little Match Productions, directing and performing with cabaret collective *Babushka* and operatic ensemble *Belladiva*.

### **PENNY CHALLEN - Designer/Producer**

Penny is an internationally accomplished designer, having trained at QCA (Fine Art) and NIDA (Design), before working mostly in the UK from 2002. Since returning to Australia, she has designed *La Bohème* for Opera Q, *Happy Days* for Queensland Theatre, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Water Wars* for La Boite and *Motherland* for Ellen Belloo.

### **DR BRIDGET BOYLE - Director**

Bridget is a Brisbane-based performer, writer, director, researcher and teacher in Drama. In 1998, she co-founded Debase Productions and their theatrical works have been performed in venues across Australia and internationally, including Brisbane Festival, Queensland Theatre and Out of the Box Festival.

### **KATHRYN MARQUET – Writer/Librettist**

Kathryn is a Brisbane-based playwright and actor. She is a graduate of the acting program at the University of Southern Queensland and holds an Advanced Postgraduate Diploma in Writing and Editing from the University of Queensland. She is currently completing a Master of Philosophy at UQ in playwriting and tutors regularly in playwriting and performance.

### **LISA CHENEY - Composer**

Lisa is an Australian composer of acoustic and acousmatic music. Her music communicates through varied styles, exploring notions of connection and authenticity through fascinations with expression, poeticism, fragility, delicacy and atmospheric soundscapes. In addition to her role as co-founder of 'Making Waves', she is currently completing her PhD in Music at The University of Melbourne.

## **PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS**

### **GENRE**

Family/Music/Theatre/Opera

### **PERFORMANCE DURATION**

45 minutes (No interval)

### **AGE SUITABILITY**

4+yrs, All ages – Created for 4-10yrs

### **VENUE FORMAT**

Festival, Outdoor, Theatre, Blackbox

### **TOURING PERSONNEL**

The touring party consists of 9 people

Name	Role
Irena Lysiuk	Performer
Sarah Murr	Performer
Jackson McGovern	Performer
Rebecca Lloyd-Jones	Percussionist
Kathryn McKee	Cellist
Annie Larsen	Clarinetist
Geoff Squires	Lighting Technician/Production Manager
Andrew Snook	Audio Technician
Alicia Cush	Tour Manager/Stage Manager/Workshop Facilitator

### **PERFORMANCE HISTORY**

Date	Venue	Number of performances
Apr 5-8, 2018	Festival 2018, Gold Coast Commonwealth Games – Surfers Paradise, Gold Coast	8
Apr 11-15, 2018	Flowstate, South bank Corporation – South Bank, Brisbane	10

## AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

### OVERVIEW

Community engagement opportunities associated with this touring work will involve two different workshops, directed at members of our target audience/demographic.

Objectives – Create a stronger relationship with the themes of the work, acceptance, tolerance and harmony.

All workshop facilitators are tertiary-trained to a Masters level and have the following areas of expertise:

Alicia Cush: Kodaly early music education, Ensemble singing

### WORKSHOP #1

#### Hoot and Meow in Harmony

Come explore the magical bong-tree forest and meet the colourful characters of The Owl and the Pussycat. This early childhood workshop is for children aged 4-8 and involves experiencing music through movement, games, singing, rhymes and stories. Using age-appropriate activities based on the Kodaly and Orff teaching methods, children will play percussion instruments and explore the show's themes of harmony, adventure and acceptance in a fun and multi-sensory approach. Climb aboard the pea green boat for a joyful introduction to classical music that will have everyone singing the Sea Bear honey song and rapping with Sir Kitty Cat!



Workshop facilitator/s - Alicia Cush

Age Appropriateness - 4-8 years

Length of workshop – Flexible between 20-45 mins

Workshop capacity - 30

Resources required (tables, chairs, etc.) – None required by Presenter – Little Match Productions will provide all equipment and musical instruments

### WORKSHOP #2

#### Boat-making with The Owl and the Pussycat

Ahoy! Come make your very own origami pea green boat and create two animal sailors for a magical journey to fair Bong-tree Bay. This visual arts workshop is for children aged 4-10 and involves storytelling, games, art and origami. Exploring the show's themes of adventure, harmony and acceptance, climb aboard for a fun introduction to origami with additional creative activities suitable for older children. Adventure calls and new encounters await alongside an Owl and a Pussycat with their colourful new friends.



Workshop facilitator/s - Alicia Cush

Age Appropriateness - 4-10 years

Length of workshop – Flexible between 20-45 mins

Workshop capacity - 30

Resources required (tables, chairs, etc.) – Tables and chairs for children – Art supplies provided by Little Match Productions

## MARKETING

### MARKETING SUMMARY

Target audience: Families, Schools Groups (Prep-Year 6)

The Producer will be providing a new marketing pack format from 2018 for all productions. This will include collateral for multi-channel use and represents a full marketing strategy. This includes full media kit, social media materials, print templates, gifs, MRECs, video content, images and public relations materials. There will be customisable content, content creation assistance for presenters and a suggested schedule for implementation.

### CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

Nil

Full Marketing Kit [here](#)

### Flowstate Brochure

Flowstate – Creative Collisions : Made and Seen Program – About Us – Your Visit – Opportunities

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[Program](#) [Workshops & Speakers](#) [Friday Feels](#) [Brochure](#)

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**Info – Workshops**

Flowstate, Festival 2018 and Little Match Productions present

**The Owl and the Pussycat**

In a pea-green boat, an owl and a pussycat sail across the sea for a year and one day to fair Bong-tree Bay. Adventure calls, new encounters await and love conquers all in a nostalgic musical journey and irresistible blend of romance and nonsense.

The Owl and the Pussycat is an enchanting and intimate theatrical experience for families, based on Edward Lear's beloved childhood poem. Created by a national team of award-winning artists for children 4–10 years, be swept away by this contemporary opera, featuring interactive theatre, puppetry and a troupe of musical puffins. This interactive journey inspires, educates and enthralled by inviting children and their families, carers and teachers to participate in multi-sensory ways to help our lovable duo reach their destination.

**They twisted the traditional opera sound into something a little experimental, a bit different, and a lot entertaining. — Aussie Theatre**

**Wed 11, Apr – Sun 15, Apr**

**Duration: 45 min**  
**Wed – Sun, 11.00am + 2.00pm**

**Creative Producer**  
Alicia Cush

**Designer and Producer**  
Penny Challen

**Director**  
Bridget Boyle

**Writer and Librettist**  
Kathryn Marquet

**Composer**  
Lisa Cheney

**Cast**  
Sarah Murr, Irene Lysiuk + Jackson McGovern


**Artwork**  
Penny Challen

**69**

*Auslan Interpreted Performance:*  
Thu 12 Apr, 2.00pm

\*School Holiday Program

[Book Now](#) →



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Festival 2018 **LITTLE MATCH PRODUCTIONS** creative partnerships australia



Public art

## SKRYF

Gijs van Bon (Netherlands)

A fascinating, small robot (Skryf) carefully scribes lines of poetry with sand to create a meditative footpath installation.

After writing each letter, Skryf continues on – leaving the text to the wind and the passersby.

SURFERS PARADISE ESPLANADE

5–15 APRIL 8PM



Music theatre / World premiere

## OWL AND THE PUSSYCAT

Little Black Dress (Australia)

Commissioned by Festival 2018

Based on the beloved childhood poem, this is a new musical made especially for children and families. The show explores the universal themes of love, harmony and acceptance with live vocals, puppetry, interactive theatre and a troupe of musical Puffins.

SURFERS PARADISE BEACH

12–15 APRIL 1PM + 3PM

Ages 4–10 years

34

**MEDIA** - Available from April 2018

**REVIEWS** – Available after Premiere season – APRIL 2018

### TESTIMONIALS

“...they twisted the traditional opera sound into something a little experimental, a bit different, and a lot entertaining.” - Aussie Theatre (Aria Moderna)

### WEBLINKS

#### WEBSITE

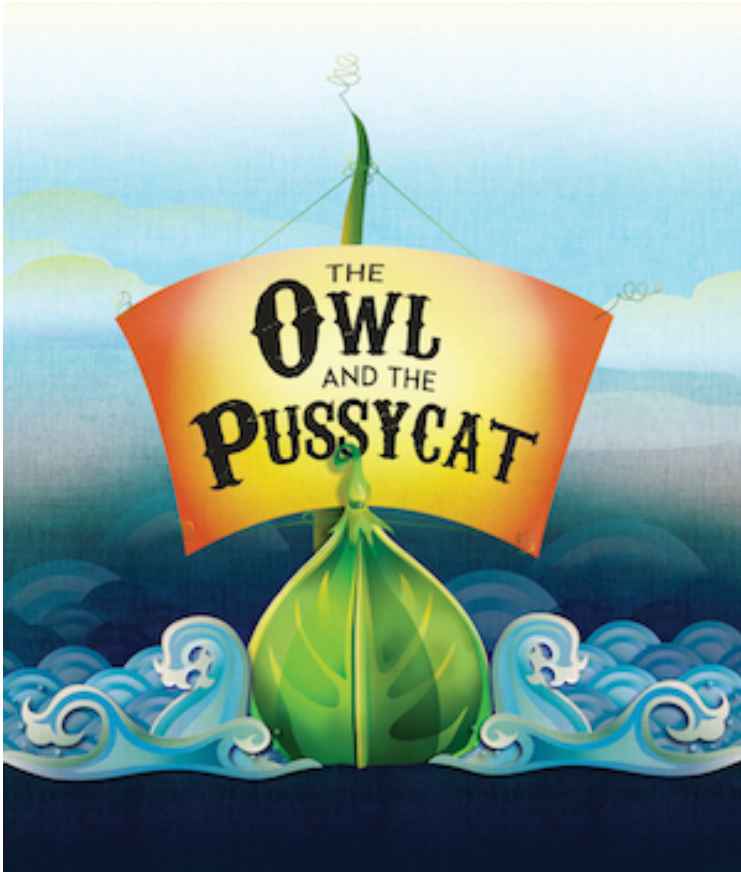
<https://www.littlematchproductions.com/the-owl-the-pussycat>

#### SOCIAL LINKS

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/hootandmeow/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/hootandmeow/>

SUPPLEMENTARY HERO ARTWORK







## PRODUCTION IMAGES SHEET

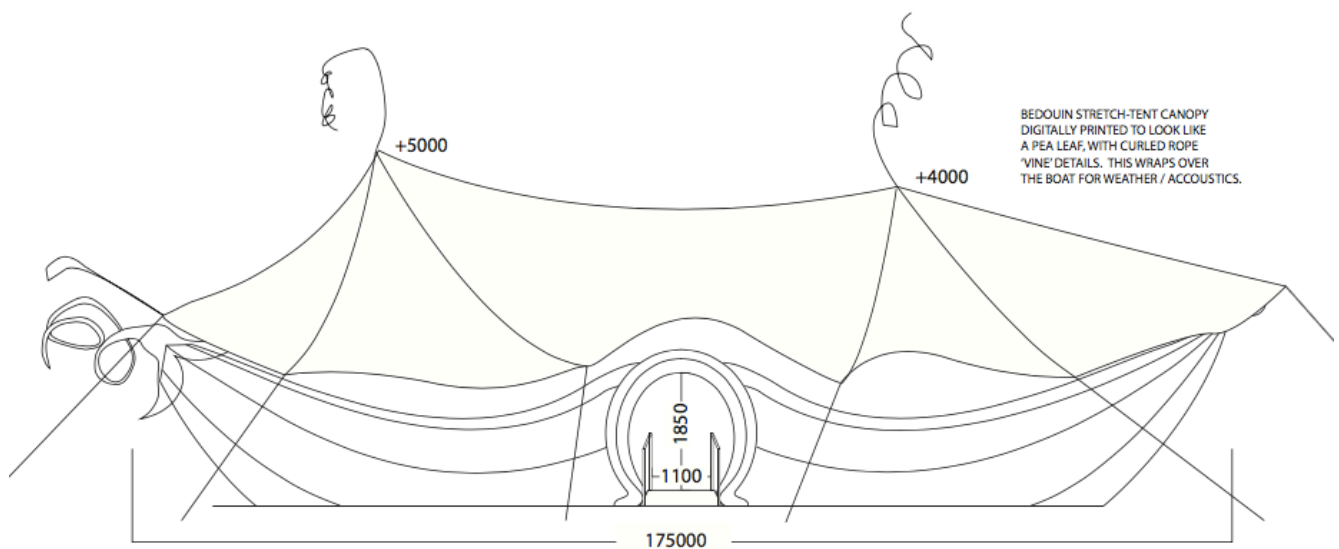
Available from April 2018

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

### GENERAL NOTES

The following technical specifications list the optimum requirements for the work, however Little Match Productions is open to working with presenters in managing these requirements; details and variations can be negotiated during the contract phase.

Full Technical Specifications [here](#)



## CONTACTS

All artistic, programming, publicity and technical enquiries to:

**Alicia Cush**

**Creative Director**

**Little Match Productions**

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