

ODDYSEA

Sensorium Theatre

*A multi-sensory
adventure to the
beach and under
the sea!*

TOURED BY PERFORMING LINES WA
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ABOUT THE SHOW

Sensorium Theatre's *Odyssey* is an immersive, multi-sensory inclusive theatre production created for children with a range of disabilities including autism; and inclusive early years audiences, 3-5 years old. Set within an undersea installation, the performance unfolds around each audience member, with songs, touch, smell and taste used to tell the story of Crab and Turtle's oceanic adventures.

Children with profound and multiple disabilities participate in workshops followed by a performance of the show. These workshops "embed" the characters, concepts and songs with all participants, allowing multiple access points to the production and a deeper level of engagement.

Many of the workshop resources are available for use by General public audiences. They should receive the 'narrative story' and the *Odyssey* theme song prior to attending so parents can familiarise their children with the characters and themes in the show. A custom-built app to deliver these materials on tablets and smartboards will be ready in late 2017.



TARGET AUDIENCE

Oddysea is a production with three distinct audience streams:

- **Schools: Complex and Multiple Disabilities (recommended for 6 – 17 years)**

The performance follows workshops delivered in-school or in the venue. These workshops familiarise students with the show, allowing them additional entry points to the performance. A school pack has been provided in the tour dropbox.

- **General Public: Inclusive performances for children with disabilities and their families (suitable for all ages)**

These sessions are designed around Sensorium Theatre's 'inclusive' performance model, creating a show tailor-made for children with additional needs that can be enjoyed by their siblings and the whole family. A Welcome email with links to resources has been provided in the tour dropbox.

- **General Public: Early Years (recommended for 3 – 5 years)**

These performances are tailored specifically to Early Years audiences and their families and are an optional add-on to the disability performance packages.

We envisage marketing collateral being produced for public audience streams, while schools should be contacted directly using the Schools Pack and support materials provided. Schools performances should not be opened to the general public.

IS THIS FOR MY CHILD?

It is essential to gather additional information about the attendees' access needs to enable the artists to best accommodate these within the performance. Ideally, this data is collected at point of sale, with the below simple questions included as part of the sales flow. We need this information to ensure the best possible experience for all attendees.

1. What is your child's name?
2. What is the age of your child?
3. Time/date of performance
4. Does your child have a disability or any additional needs you would like the artists to know about? This will help us to tailor the performance

Schools also need to provide this information compiled and printed for Sensorium's arrival at the theatre.

MARKETING INFORMATION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Any variation to the requirements below must be agreed with Performing Lines' Producer and Marketing Manager.

Production title Oddysea

Company Name Sensorium Theatre

Billing [Your venue] presents
Sensorium Theatre's
Oddysea
Produced by Performing Lines WA [placement is negotiable]

TAGLINE A multi-sensory adventure under the sea for the whole family!

Marketing Copy

CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Join Crab and Turtle for this fun-filled immersive journey into an undersea world, created for children with disability and suitable for the whole family.

Set in a beautiful ocean installation, there's plenty for your child to see, hear, smell, touch and taste as the story unfolds around them.

Sensorium Theatre specialises in creating inclusive theatre experiences, taking the whole family on an exciting journey beneath the sea!

Don't forget to pack a towel!

Is this for my child? *Oddysea* is especially suitable for young people with additional needs including autism spectrum disorders, sensory processing issues or impairments, intellectual disabilities, global development delay, cerebral palsy and those with additional mobility needs. Suitable for all ages.

EARLY YEARS

Come on an amazing journey beneath the sea!

Join Crab and Turtle on their fun-filled *Oddysea*, especially designed to stimulate all the senses.

Set in a beautiful immersive installation, the story unfolds around your child, with plenty to see, smell, touch and taste.

Catch the next wave down to the beach. Don't forget to pack a towel!

Odyssey is an inclusive performance for the whole family. It is especially suitable for children aged 3 – 5, including those with disabilities.

Media Release

Text – 235 words

Taking young audiences on an amazing undersea journey, Sensorium Theatre's *Odyssey* is a multi-sensory inclusive performance specifically designed for children with disability and their families.

Set in a beautiful oceanic installation, the story unfolds around each audience member, using song, touch, smell and taste.

Starting on the seashore, *Odyssey* follows the adventures of Crab and Turtle as they dive deep beneath the sea, meeting a cast of colourful characters in this story of fun and friendship.

Hailing from Western Australia, Sensorium Theatre is at the forefront of inclusive performance in Australia, providing all children access to enriching artistic experiences.

"The ability to enjoy a story should be a right for all kids," co-Artistic Director Francis Italiano said.

"We provide as many sensory 'ins' as possible – things to touch and smell and taste – so that everyone can experience the story."

The public performances allow families to attend as a group and enjoy the performance together, with the needs of their child being at the forefront of the performers' minds.

"Too often performances are designed for mainstream kids and sometimes a session gets adapted for children with disability. We turned that on its head and created a show specifically for these audience members that is a great experience for everyone," Italiano said.

Sensorium Theatre is dedicated to making shows that spark young imaginations, immersing them in amazing multi-sensory worlds to fully engage children in enriching artistic experiences.

About the Company

Sensorium Theatre is dedicated to making magical, multi-sensory theatre for Profound Multiple Learning Disabilities/Autism Spectrum Disorder young audiences. We create performances which delight and inspire by creating high quality hands-on theatre that invites children to touch, taste, smell, hear, feel and see stories unfold around them within a specially designed immersive sensory environment. The intentionally small audiences are onstage with the artists who continually adapt their performance to connect with individual learning abilities and communication style of each child. This way, each child becomes an active participant in the storytelling experience.

Our values are to be heart-centred, inclusive, artistically rigorous and sustainable, and our vision is to allow all young people to be enchanted by the magic of theatre.

Artist Credits

Artistic Directors Michelle Hovane & Francis Italiano

Performers Rebecca Bradley, Amity Culver, Jamie David, Jessica Harlond-Kenny, Michelle Hovane & Francis Italiano

Designer Francis Italiano

Textile Designer Mand Markey

Composer Jamie David with Mark Cain

Produced by Performing Lines WA

Production History

2017 | National Tour | QPAC (Brisbane), Monkey Baa Theatre (Sydney), Burnie Arts & Function Centre (Tasmania), Dream Big Festival (Adelaide), Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre, Griffith Regional Theatre, Bathurst Memorial Entertainment Centre.

2016 | Regional WA tour | Koorliny Arts Centre, Cummins Theatre (Merredin), Queens Park Theatre (Geraldton), Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre, Civic Theatre (Esperance), Goldfields Arts Centre (Kalgoorlie)

2015 | Arts Centre Melbourne | Melbourne, Victoria

2015 | Sydney Opera House | Sydney, New South Wales

2014 | Mandurah Performing Arts Centre | Mandurah, Western Australia

2014 | Perth Metro Schools Tour | Gwynne Park, Malibu School, Carson St School, Gladys Newton School, Joondalup ESC, Merriwa ESC, Creaney ESC, Beldon ESC Kenwick School

2013 | Development and Performances | Carson St and Kenwick School, Kalamunda ESC, Sir David Brand School

Acknowledgements/ Logos

Text acknowledgement: A Performing Lines WA production.

Logos: Sensorium Theatre / Performing Lines WA

All logos available from:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uiabamqslfv5gqe/AABikl-fCVMypRtVX1Xe7276a?dl=0>

Logos must be included on all advertising and promotional material associated with the tour and performances of *ODDYSEA* unless explicitly agreed otherwise, including, but not limited to, season brochures, flyers, posters, advertisements, media releases, promotional videos, web pages and programs.

ARTWORK APPROVAL

All marketing materials are to be emailed to Performing Lines WA Marketing Manager Thom Smyth (thom@performinglineswa.org.au) for sign-off at least three working days before distribution/printing.

Duration	60 minutes, no interval
Warnings	Low light levels at points – torches and other light sources provided
Age Recommendation	MILD & MODERATE DISABILITY (GENERAL PUBLIC) – All ages MILD TO COMPLEX DISABILITY (SCHOOLS) – 6 – 12 years EARLY YEARS – 3 – 5 years (if presenting)
Website	http://www.sensoriumtheatre.com.au/
MARKETING ASSETS	<p>All content and resources available at: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/pngwivol0if3r1b/AAAH3vh0f53AROUWRBC_Llsida?dl=0</p> <p>Direct links included below:</p>
Marketing Resources	<p>Images: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/mhnbpo6seolfnbk/AADG3qQM60ToXuk-JSmx8Qkja?dl=0</p> <p>Social story video links and digital resources: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4ddd3ju47f9ary4/AACbMATUOE9CKmd4vrZol-Ufa?dl=0</p> <p>Schools Pack: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/cjic82w0hg5ukns/AAD7rcvFlbbPXcgzmYomgRaea?dl=0</p> <p>Logos: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uiabamqslfv5gqe/AABikl-fCVMypRtVX1Xe7276a?dl=0</p> <p>Font (Cool Crayon – if desired): https://www.dropbox.com/s/rqg408ibsj8md2p/FONT_dk-cool-crayon.zip?dl=0</p>
Images Credits	<p>Hero Shots (as marked): CRAB/TURTLE – Ashley de Prazer All other shots: Jessica Wyld Photography</p>
Video and Audio links	<p>Disability audiences (Schools + GP): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3tbVQdk-f10</p> <p>Early Years: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4dKI0hMdVo</p> <p>Soundtrack: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/6aiytou1sd2zk0z/AAD5JY_KauMmkOItHuCD_BUKa?dl=0</p>
Artwork Design Files	<p>Posters & flyers: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nm50q1ew272u89v/AADNheCYpSdh26E4n-kedV75a?dl=0</p>

Digital Resources**Narrative Story**

https://issuu.com/performinglineswa/docs/oddysea_a4_narrative_lo-res_a41aea1c2b7555

Social Story

<http://www.sensoriumtheatre.com.au/resources/oddysea-resources/>

Theme song

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/3stta1af2glmlxi/01%20Oddysea.m4a?dl=0>

Extra resources

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5y2ighui32skbm2/AADd1oVsSoO9oLF18TxNi8nWa?dl=0>

Artist Biographies:

for use online, in
printed programs, etc

Francis Italiano | Co-Artistic Director/Performer

Francis founded Sensorium Theatre with Michelle Hovane in 2010, bringing their unique immersive sensory theatre to over 2000 children with special needs since its inception. Under his direction, Sensorium has spearheaded national discussions around access for special needs audiences, highlighted by presentations of *Oddysea* at the Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne and a nomination for the Helpmann Awards in 2017. In this capacity he has facilitated Professional Learning for artists and industry professionals across Australia. Over a 25 year career, particularly as a community artist, he has worked as artistic-director, artist-in-residence and principal artist for numerous arts and cultural institutions. He has worked as a writer/director/designer/performer at festivals across Australia and continued his professional development in this specialized artform collaborating with including Oily Cart, Bamboozle & Punch Drunk (UK) and Teatro de los Sentidos (Spain).

Michelle Hovane | Co-Artistic Director/Performer

Michelle is a physical performer, somatic practitioner and co-artistic director of Sensorium Theatre. She is passionate about the transformative potential of the arts and the importance of live storytelling in maintaining human communities. She is a founding member of Sensorium Theatre and has been instrumental in the development of the company and the articulation of the company's methodology. She has been a co-devisor and performer on both Sensorium Theatre's current productions *The Jub Jub Tree* and *Oddysea* and subsequently led metropolitan, regional and national tours. Over the past 20 years, Michelle has facilitated and performed with many communities of diverse abilities, cultures and identities which gives her a deep ability to tailor each performance to the individuals she encounters.

Jamie David | Composer/Performer

Part of the Sensorium team since July 2013, Jamie has an extensive background in composition, performance, songwriting, multi-art-form collaborations and community arts. He composed all the original music for *Odyssey* and performs as a multi-instrumentalist and vocal leader within the show. His personal creative odyssey has included touring internationally with music acts, collaborating in theatrical, circus and dance productions, film soundtrack composition, musical studies in West Africa and Southern India.

Amity Culver | Performer

Amity has been performing in the Arts since she could walk and sing. As a performance artist Amity has developed works in local and rural communities across Australia, working predominantly with at risk youth and children with special needs. Although primarily a dancer, her passion is in combining all artistic genres and creating collaborative works for children with special needs in a holistic and healing environment. A member of the Sensorium Theatre since 2013, Amity has been involved in regional, metropolitan and national tours where she enjoys performing, conducting student centered workshops and facilitating professional developments with the team.

Jessica Harlond Kenny | Performer

Jessica Harlond-Kenny is an Australian-based artist specialising in puppetry and performance. Jessica has worked with Sensorium since 2016 on the 2016 WA Regional Tour and 2017 National Tour of *Odyssey*. Forming her own production house, Cracked Egg Productions, Jessica is in constant collaboration with other artists creating new works such as *The Hardest Way to Make an Omelette*, *See Ya Sailor Man* and *La Llorona*. Thus far her career and professional development has been supported through Australia Council, WA Department of Culture and the Arts funding and intensive training with Edith Cowan University, Auquetopia, Mexico, Stages WA and Spare Parts Puppet Theatre. Jessica is committed to continually working in collaboration with established and emerging creative's, feeling that a diverse approach to theatre creates generous and overwhelming results.

Rebecca Bradley | Stage Manager/Stage Director

Rebecca Bradley is a theatre maker with a passion for creating impactful and inspirational theatrical experiences. As a skilled puppeteer, musician, clown, physical performer and facilitator, she has spent much of her career traveling extensively throughout Australia, Europe, Indonesia, and

Latin America, working, training and teaching in her field. Rebecca has worked with Spare Parts Puppet Theatre since 2005 on numerous shows including Tim Winton's *Blue Back* (2010), Shaun Tan's *Tales From Outer Suburbia* (2013), Moominpapa at Sea (2014) and *Farm* (2014) for which she received a nomination for Best Supporting Actress from Performing Arts WA. She has worked independently with international companies such as Teatro de Los Sentidos, (Spain) and Les Commando Percu (France) for the Perth international Festival. In 2010, Rebecca became a core artist and musician for Sensorium Theatre touring extensively with the company ever since. Rebecca is also a certified Yoga and TaKeTiNa teacher.

Rachael Whitworth | Producer Performing Lines WA

After beginning her career as a dancer and performer, Rachael joined Performing Lines in 2011 as Producer. She has worked on significant dance and theatre projects for Performing Lines WA and is an International Society of Performing Arts (ISPA) Fellow with the Australia Council Legacy program, attending 4 consecutive congresses in New York. Rachael has been producing Sensorium Theatre since 2013 helping develop their work and national and international networks. This has resulted in development of best-practice delivery models as well as State and National tours including bench mark seasons to the Sydney Opera House, Arts Centre Melbourne and the Lincoln Center in New York.

PERFORMING LINES | Producing Transformative Performance

Performing Lines produces new and transformative performance, creating pathways for innovative artists whose work pushes boundaries and sparks new conversations.

For more than 30 years, Performing Lines has collaborated with arts companies, producers, presenters and funders to bring about creative and strategic opportunities for some of this country's most exciting and diverse contemporary artists and performances.

Based in the heart of Redfern, we also manage offices in Perth and Hobart.

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