

Propelled

By Jane Modric in collaboration with Douglas
Robins



Propelled 2014 Season production shot featuring Doug Robins. Photo by Kyle Wilson.

PRESENTER'S INFORMATION

Produced by JUTE Theatre Company.

Contents

COMPANY PROFILE	3
ABOUT THE SHOW.....	3
PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS.....	7
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT	8
MARKETING	8
PRODUCTION DETAILS	13
CONTACTS.....	16

COMPANY PROFILE

JUTE came into being in 1992 when three passionate theatre makers living in Cairns met and the creative sparks began to fly. The three founding members of JUTE are Kathryn Ash, Suellen Maunder and Susan Prince. JUTE's first production launched International Womens' Day in March 1993 at the height of summer in the unairconditioned arts centre (shed!). The work was fiery, raw and unique in the region.....it was an instant success!

Since then, the company has dedicated itself to carving out a niche for its work. Within the first two years JUTE began to focus on new work, both text based and devised, that told stories from our region. Designed in collaboration with regional writers, the Enter Stage Write script development program has been the creative heart of the company from which JUTE draws almost all of its work.

Over two decades our theatre artists and audience have been part of an extraordinary outpouring of new Australian stories. JUTE is a unique company in the Australian theatre landscape through its high quality productions, depth and reach of development programs, artistic collaborations, and touring and networking of the regional theatre sector.

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOW SYNOPSIS

Take a ride in someone else's wheels.

Coming of age is a tricky business, especially when you're on wheels and life keeps throwing roadblocks at you.

Doug is 25 years old. He likes football, partying with his mates, and girls. He's pretty much your average guy except for one big difference. Doug has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and negotiates life's twists and turns in a wheel chair; not always an easy feat despite the help and support of friends, family and well-meaning strangers.

Life is no blithe spin in the park; stairs aren't built for wheels, and some doors are easier to get through than others.

Armed with a whole lot of smarts, an impressive capacity for patience and a keen awareness of life's absurdities, Doug takes a heroic journey into the liminal worlds between boy and man, man and machine, the real and the fantastical, to discover who he is, and in the process finds a path uniquely his own.

'Propelled' offers a rare insight into an inspiring life through the eyes of an extraordinary man on a remarkable journey. Take a ride and be transformed. The differences may not be what they seem.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Directed by Suellen Maunder

Playwrights Jane Modric in collaboration with Douglas Robins from an idea by Suellen Maunder

Designers Simone Tesorieri & Simona Cosentini

Lighting Designer Daniel Anderson

Sound Designer Trish Molloy

Digital Vision Kyle Wilson

Dramaturg Peter Matheson

Featuring Douglas Robins

JUTE Triennial Funding Bodies



JUTE Theatre Company acknowledges the assistance of the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland.



JUTE Theatre Company acknowledges the assistance of the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.

Project Funding Bodies



Australian Government
Regional Arts Fund

The Regional Arts Fund is an Australian Government initiative that supports sustainable cultural development in regional, remote and very remote Australia. The program is delivered in partnership with Artslink Queensland.

Sponsors



Propelled by Jane Modric in Collaboration with Doug Robins

BIOGRAPHIES

Douglas Robins - Actor

Doug Robins has called Cairns home for over a decade. Before that he lived in Mount Isa where he claims to have formed his 'no muss, no fuss' approach to life. By junior high school he knew his heart belonged to the arts; in particular the theatre. Upon graduating from high school he studied Bachelor of Arts majoring in Theatre and English at JCU, attending classes with some of the best theatre and performance practitioners in the region today. His studies propelled him into the arts scene of Cairns, where he volunteers his performance skills at Arc Disability Services to spread the understanding that theatre is open to everyone. Doug believes that theatre skills should be mandatory because they are useful in all facets of life.

Jane Modric – Playwright

Jane has a PhD in Creative Arts (JCU) and a Master of Letters (CQU). Her first play 'Soph and the Real World' was produced by JUTE Theatre Company in 2013, and was written as part of JUTE's Enter Stage Write program. She has a background in music and song writing with two solo albums and a number of collaborations to her credit. Her research examines the creative process, and her interests lie in finding practical ways to enhance creativity in her own life and the lives of others.

Suellen Maunder – Director

A founding member, Artistic Director and CEO of JUTE Theatre Company, Suellen has played many roles over the years, spanning actor, director, workshop facilitator and producer. Her performance credits include Bag O'Marbles (1994), Love Child, Barmaids, Latitudes, The Chicken Play, Constance Drinkwater and the Final Days of Somerset and Tiptoe, Macbeth and Dancing Back Home. Her directing credits include The Rape; Insignificance; Slave; Demolition Pile Driving Hard Hats & Donkey Dick (Assistant to Hilary Beaton); Black White & Shades of Brown (BWASOB) Creative Development; Bedtime Stories by Aunty Dee (Creative Development & Production; Dad & I; Fetish and Junk Rooms. At the JUTE Theatre, Suellen directed Flutter and Surviving Jonah Salt, Crackle Snap Pop, The Boathouse, Summaris is a Tropical Paradise on Top of a Shoe Factory in Footscray, Victor & Sass, Gods of Spicy Things, Cancelled by Popular Demand, Rosa, At Sea, Staring Up, Soph and the Real World, Half & Half and Propelled.

Simone Tesorieri – Set Designer

Simone Tesorieri is an Italian scenic designer that has worked as a stage and prop designer in opera and musical plays and producer for the main Regional and Civic Theatre in Italy and with independent theatre companies. His stage

design credits include Madama Butterfly (2000), Traviata (2001), Don Pasquale (2002), Boheme (2003), Cavalleria Rusticana (2004) with the Bonci Theatre. From 2005 to 2011, he worked as professional prop designer for the TCB theatre in Bologna, and also started his independent production and creative development of opera plays and drama with Operaovunque and Teatro Colli.

At JUTE, Simone has worked on Propelled (creative Development) and Proper Solid (Creative Development), Half & Half and Propelled productions.

Simona Cosentini – Set Designer

Simona Cosentini is an Italian scenographer, graduated in Stage Design in 2007 at the Fine Art Academy in Bologna. Since 2003 she started out as a stage painter, working both as charge artist and a prop, then she joined the dressmaking staff working to the chief of stage design in opera plays -for the main regional theatres in Italy- and in dramas with independent theatre companies. She continues her personal artistic carrier and research on Traditional Art and performances. Her costume design credits include “Paolo & Francesca” (TCB, 2006), “La serva padrona” and “Il Barbiere di Siviglia (Operaovunque, 2007-2009).

She started her independent production and creative development in opera plays and dramas mainly for Operaovunque, and Teatro Colli. Recently arrived in Australia, Simona has worked at Jute as costume designer for Half&Half, and is currently working on Propelled, Sentinel Chickens, and Proper Solid (Creative Development).

Daniel Anderson – Lighting Designer

Daniel was nominated for a Matilda Award in 2012 for the Bille Brown Award: Best Emerging Artist, holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Technical Production) from the Queensland University of Technology and has completed a Broadway Lighting Master Class by Live Design in New York City. Daniel has also been awarded an ArtStart Grant from the Australia Council of the Arts.

Daniel's commitment to the industry has seen him work as a lighting designer for theatre, dance, cityscapes, and arts festivals. Daniel was the lighting designer for Brisbane's 2013 fireworks spectacular Sunsuper Riverfire. Daniel has since gone on to design the first themed lighting display on Brisbane's Story Bridge for Christmas in 2013. For La Boite Theatre Company: Tender Napalm. For JUTE Theatre Company: Like A Fishbone (Co-Production with Courage Works Theatre). For La Boite Indie: Colder (Co-Production with Michelle Miall). For Queensland Theatre Company: Bombshells, I Am Here (co-production with Two Thumbs Up, and the Multicultural Development Association), Face It, Seeding Bed 2012, Treasure Island (co-production with Matrix Theatre), This Hollow Crown, and Twelve (A creative development co-production with Black Honey Company).

Trish Molloy – Sound Designer

Trish Molloy is a musician, singer/songwriter and sound designer from North Qld. Trish has composed and performed live scores for physical theatre troupe The Kurandacoots (The Red Ball, The Beast, Freaestra), National Film and Sound Archive screenings (South – Big Screen 2000, The Corrick Collection – Cairns Festival 2012/13), and Centre for Australasian Theatre's The Scream (2013-14). Trish also performs as a solo artist and with bands The Secret Tuesdays, In The Wild Wood, and The Barrelhouse Three, and relishes every opportunity to enhance visual and textual experiences with sound and music.

Kyle Wilson – Digital Vision

Kyle Wilson is a Cairns based filmmaker, musician, photographer and writer. After traveling throughout Europe and The Middle East to own his craft, Kyle is back in Cairns, Australia to establish his creative collective Little Earth Creatives.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION

One Act – 60 minutes

SUITABLE VENUES

Proscenium arch or black box venues

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

6 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

5 hours

LICENCING AGREEMENTS

10% writer royalties plus 1% company royalties

APRA OBLIGATIONS

This production requires no APRA clearances or licencing.

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 4 people (including 1 carer).

Name	Role
Doug Robins	Performer
Jessica Ross	Stage Manager
Sam Gibb	Backstage Crew

Deb Robins	Doug's Carer
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PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2014	JUTE Theatre, Centre of Contemporary Arts, Cairns	8

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

Audience Q&A: 20 minute audience Q&A discussions with Doug Robins about the generation of the performance, living with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and about artists with different abilities - what are the possibilities.

Doug would be available to talk to school groups, carers, nurses about living with different abilities.

DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

COST

\$200/talk outside of the Q&A's. Q&A's following performance are covered by the performance fee.

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All ages, those living with different abilities, carers, nurses, people who want to see inspiring stories.

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

One line

Take a ride in someone else's wheels.

Short

Coming of age is a tricky business, especially when you're on wheels and life keeps throwing roadblocks at you.

Doug is 25 years old. He likes football, partying with his mates, and girls. He's pretty much your average guy except for one big difference. Doug has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and negotiates life's twists and turns in a wheel chair; not always an easy feat despite the help and support of friends, family and well-meaning strangers.

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Extended

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MARKETING SUMMARY

While the production does have Occasional Coarse Language, it is generally suitable for all age groups, there is not specific target audience it is more or less targeted towards. Successful marketing has featured Doug Robins, the performer, co-writer and inspiration for the story.

MEDIA QUOTES

"It is a dazzling performance, marked by a sense of humour which is at once laconic and sardonic. There are laughs aplenty, interspersed with moments of pathos and deep insight."

"JUTE has once again shown conclusively that there are intriguing stories to be told right under its nose. In the process they have created a must-not-miss theatrical event."

Glyn Davies - read the full review on artsHub at <http://performing.artshub.com.au/news-article/review/performing-arts/propelled-197995>

"The performance has you on the edge of your seat for 70 minutes as Doug, confined to a complicated-looking wheelchair, gives the audience an insight into an inspiring life through the eyes of an extraordinary young man who is telling his story. But as the performance develops, Doug reminds us that we all have a story to tell."

"A diverse team of creative practitioners has been assembled for Propelled, and the visual effects that help Doug tell his story are priceless."

"Doug is right though, we all have a story. I urge you to hear Doug's."
Kylie Reghenzani, Tablelands Advertiser/Tablelander.

AUDIENCE REVIEWS

"What a fantastic show tonight! Thoroughly enjoyed the ups and downs and honesty of such a wonderful performer in Doug. It's a must see"
Kat Erini

Powerful, Inspirational and a great insight into just how tough life can get - his motive is 'JUST MOVE FORWARD'"
Kym Davis

"Sure is an amazing show - written by an amazing woman about an amazing man."
Sherryl McCullough

"I definitely think Propelled is the best work I have seen out of JUTE - and that is saying something. It is a first class production and I was deeply moved by the show's raw honesty, pathos and humour. The play merited the two standing ovations received on opening night. I think it would play anywhere and should be broadcast so a wider audience could appreciate this finely crafted work."
MaryBeth Gundrum

"Really enjoyed "Propelled". Doug Robins was incredible. I thought about the message for a few days afterwards. I thought it also showed a greatness in kindred insight. Congratulations."
Denis McDonagh

"I work in the disability sector and I would love to see a production on the road, or somehow put into a media format for distribution, though I'm not sure if you can truly capture atmosphere this way, which greatly contributed to the play. Not only was the performance educational and insightful, the way it was put together was so easy to connect to. It was in no way boring or run-of-the-

mill and the way it presented the subject matter really evoked feeling, I believe it would generate thought, across many audiences, be it general public; young adults; parents in general; people who work in the field such as myself or in education or in theatre. I felt I related to it as a story of achievement the most and I think on a more philosophical level we all benefit from celebrating achievement, especially in the everyday life of someone, as this gives us all hope and inspiration that we are able to achieve something special in our everyday lives. Doug and all who collaborated on the project have really contributed to the world on this one."

Emma Smith

COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

Propelled is Excellent

"I attended the opening night of Propelled last night. I just wanted to let you know I thought that the show was amazing!!!! I learnt a huge amount.

Doug was absolutely fantastic. Further I thought that the AV and set design complemented the show perfectly.

I just wanted to congratulate the team on a fantastic production!!!!

I am very proud to be a member of such a great company. I am really excited to see what we can do next."

Victoria Cuda (nee McLaran), JUTE Board Member

I went to see propelled last night. I went in thinking it was a really worthwhile project, but wondering if it would work as a piece of theatre. To be honest I wondered if I would come out the other end saying something like - For a one man show with the actor restricted as he is that was really good. What I did come out saying was - that was powerful, evocative and often mesmerising. It not only worked as a piece of theatre but it was really good theatre. Doug's performance was deep, textured, layered, subtle and real. I noticed an almost complete absence of that "Try hard" thing that happens when actors are unable to understand their dialogue properly and enter their characters deeply enough. Doug went where we all hope to go as actors, he potently embodied struggle/suffering and an equally potent gracious acceptance of the ignorance around him. Despite that acceptance (and in fact because of it) Jane and Doug's play is a very effective call for change. We are graciously invited, not ordered or bullied, into a change in perspective. It is gently done and all the more effective because of it. It is eye opening and I think, a very important piece of work.

The language Jane uses is poetic and insightful, the symbols surprising, imaginative and apt. She not only invites us to change our perspective but stimulates our subconscious and we are forced to ponder. The day after the play I find myself revisiting and wondering, reliving the experience and (Jane will get this) tingling. The text, Doug's performance, the design and media when combined and measured so well by your hand really delivered (and

more) the stimulus I crave when I go to the theatre. I had to reach and stretch to comprehend both the play and Doug's plight.

It was a wonderful experience that put me back in touch with the reasons I write. Thank you very much. Please pass on my thanks to all involved.

Tony Robertson, Playwright and Enter Stage Write Participant

VIDEO LINKS

Propelled Promotional Video <http://youtu.be/du0sfaNq1Dk>

Propelled Trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=RKdBeTV4bSc

Propelled Full Show

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IkD8sGqgXR8

IMAGES

High resolution production images can be found at

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/63459599@N05/sets/72157643732060904/>

MARKETING MATERIALS

Media Releases

Bios

Production Photos

Flyers

Posters

Videos – Trailer, Behind the Scenes x 3

CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

Occasional Strong Language

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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TEACHER'S RESOURCES

Year Level Suitability: 8-12

Duration: 1 Hour

Curriculum Area: Drama, English, SOSE

Art form: Comedy/Biography

Themes and issues: Disability, discrimination, coming of age, identity

Rated: M (Occasional Coarse Language)

PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Crossover US needed for crew to cross without being seen.

Disabled toilets and full disabled access required backstage and on OP / Prompt

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

Bump In – 4 hours

Bump Out – 2 hours

First Possible Performance – 6 hours after arrival at the venue

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Lighting to be pre-rigged and patched prior to arrival.

SM and touring tech will plot and focus upon arrival.

Bump In

1 x lighting crew – 6 hours
1 x sound crew – 2 hours
1 x staging crew – 2 hours

Operation

1 x lighting crew – 3 hours

Bump out

1 x staging crew – 3 hours

STAGE

14m x 7m required stage space required to allow the actor to move around the scrims. Three scrims are used in the set. One central scrim (5m wide by 5m tall) and two side scrims (2.5m wide by 5m tall)

Mesh wire trees are placed upstage and downstage. A wooden floor is required to set the pulley system that manouvers the 4 tall trees that will controlled fall during the performance. The trees are attached and secured by the pulley system that needs to run along the perimeter of the stage space.

The pulley system needs to be fixed in floor from downstage to upstage. Small tek screws are used to install the pully system.

Venue to supply

A wooden floor is required to set the pulley system that manouvers the 4 tall trees that will controlled fall during the performance.

LIGHTING

JUTE Theatre Company to supply

- Some gel will be supplied

Venue to supply

- General DS OH wash broken into three sections (SL / C / SR)
- General Mid stage OH wash broken into three sections (SL / C / SR)
- General US OH wash broken into three sections
- Minimum of six booms (3 OP / 3 prompt) with 3 profiles per boom to cut between scrims
- FOH wash broken into 3 sections
- 6 x special (profiles)
- 6 x Fresnels for backlight behind scrims
- 12 x birdies to be placed in set
- 3 x LED pars

Lighting to be pre-rigged prior to arrival at venue

SOUND

JUTE Theatre Company to supply

- touring party will supply Focusrite audio interface to split sound FOH L, FOH R, Back L & Back Right. XLR output out of Focusrite box

Venue to supply

- Standard stereo FOH audio system
- 2 x powered speakers to be flown at back of theatre for sound effects to come from back of theatre
- Depending on size of venue, speakers mid house may be required
- Minimum 16 channel audio console required

AV

JUTE Theatre Company to supply

- Touring party will supply VGA distribution box for both side scrim (2.5m wide by 5m tall scrim) to show same image.

Venue to supply

- 3 x Projectors required.
- 2 x projectors will project onto 2.5m wide by 5m tall scrim
- 1 x projector will project onto 5m wide by 5m tall scrim
- Minimum 3000 ANSI Lumens required in projectors.
- VGA video runs to be run from projectors to FOH.
- Note, Side scrim vision has been produced in portrait style. Sample image will be supplied prior to arrival for focus of projectors.
- Projection ideally rigged and focused prior to arrival

WARDROBE

JUTE Theatre Company to supply

Vest, short, jeans and footwear for Doug Robins

Venue to supply

Iron and ironing board required backstage

FREIGHT NOTES

Small van needed to transport set
Disabled transport required for performer

CRITICAL ISSUES

A wooden floor is required to set the pulley system that manouvers the 4 tall trees that will controlled fall during the performance.

CONTACTS

JUTE Staff

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MEDIA RELEASE

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