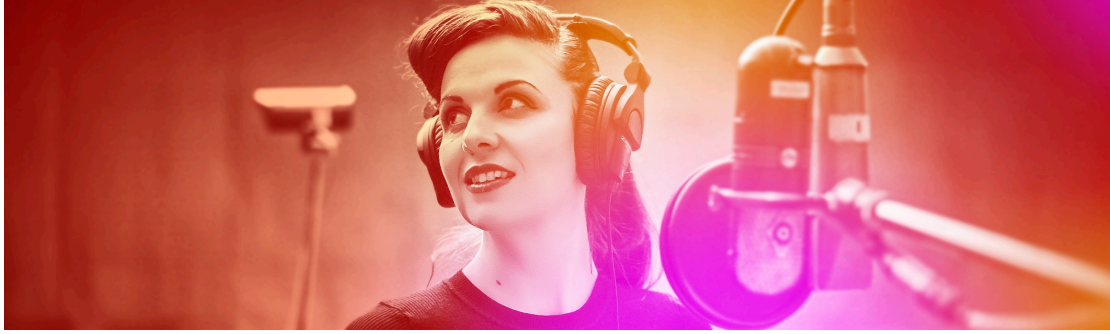


THE SONGS THAT SAVED YOUR LIFE

By Kimba Griffith



PRESENTER'S INFORMATION



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COMPANY PROFILE

Rising jazz Chanteuse Kimba Griffith is lauded for her gift of drawing out the intricacies of a song's deeper story; she has worked with her long-time collaborator and muse Ryan Griffith for the past 19 years across various platforms, but the pair are known best for their jazz projects Kimba and Ryan and the Kimba Griffith Septet. They are fixtures on the Melbourne Jazz scene and also internationally.

Over the past 18 months Kimba has expanded her creative focus to theatrical renderings of curated songs and original works along specific themes. In 2016 she has presented a number of these works including 'Amicus Mortis: Songs of Love and Loss' (as part of Dying to Know Day), Conversations in Blue (a cabaret piece based on the evolution of west-coast jazz in the 50's) and her most popular piece 'The Songs That Saved Your Life', which links to a blog-based project 'This is Who I was Then' (www.teenagejournals.com)

ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOW SYNOPSIS

The Songs that Saved your Life offers a new synthesis of dramatic theatre, live music and oral history. This work, described by a recent audience member as 'Jazz Drama' fuses these elements and also contrasts iconic grunge and new wave tunes with the thrilling power of improvised jazz and with theatrical elements and text that create a spellbinding narrative for the audience. The collection of seminal tunes is gathered from artists including The Smiths, Nirvana, The Violent Femmes, and David Lynch's soundtracks.

This piece reflects the shared experience teenage angst, longing and passion through music that is still potent today. Kimba's performance reflects the experience of being young in a way that is honest, rebellious and raw, that's funny and ironic, but also tender and reflective.

The piece is accompanied by a side project 'This is who I was Then' (www.teenagejournals.com) a blog-based space that encourages collaboration between audience and performer.

The Songs project has enjoyed two sell-out iterations in 2016 (The Melbourne Recital Centre, Wangaratta Festival of Jazz and Blues) and this polished and multi-faceted piece continues to unfold and develop with each performance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Writer / Performer: Kimba Griffith

Composer / Music Director / Guitar: Ryan Griffith

Director: Melinda Hetzel

Producer: Linda Catalano (TBC)

Musicians:

Julien Wilson, saxophone

Niko Schauble, drums

Tamara Murphy, bass)

Costume Design: Jason Chalmers

Lighting Designer: TBC

Set Designer: TBC

BIOGRAPHIES

Kimba Griffith: Vocalist, performance maker, writer

Education:

Victorian College of the Arts – Bachelor Creative Arts (Theatre Studies / Music / Critical Theory)

Performance Direction:

Perfect Day Music – Musical Director (2010-present)

The Songs that Saved your Life Project (Music and Multi-Arts Platform, Premiered at the Melbourne Recital Centre April 2016)

Amicus Mortis: Songs of Love and Loss (Music and performance Art premiered August 2016 at Bennett's Lane and)

Festivals:

Melbourne Festival - Myer Windows Project 1998

Melbourne Festival - Young Director's Mentorship scheme with Maude Davey 2000

Melbourne Festival – Spiegeltent House Jazz Band 2002-3

Takatsuki Jazz Street featured artist 2004-5

Kobe Jazz Street featured artist 2005

Edinburgh Festival – Gilded Balloon featured artist 2006 'Kimba and the Speak Easy Stompers' Late Night Cabaret with Ali McGregor, Asher Treleaven, Michelangelo, Tim Minchin, Nina Ferro, The Shuffle Club and more

Wangaratta Jazz Festival – featured artist 2014 Kimba and Ryan & 2016 'Songs that Saved Your Life'

Theatre Projects:

David Branson/Splinters 'Flowers of Gold' 1992

Melbourne Festival: 'Footgloves' Extended Theatrical installation (3 weeks' duration) 2000

Journeys of a Gender Nomad: La Mama Theatre 2001

Butoh Bitch Lover: Osaka Beronica Burlesque Collective 2005

Projects:

Kimba & Ryan – Bell Award Nominees 2012

The Kimba Griffith Septet - Bell Award Nominees 2016

The Songs that Saved Your Life Project

Amicus Mortis: Songs of Love and Loss

Conversations in Blue: West Coast Jazz

Walter and Marion (Multi Arts Performance debut 2017)

Discography:

Non Linear Effect - The Parkville Sessions 2003 (Guest Vocalist)

Kimba and Ryan - We are two in the night 2008

Kimba and Ryan - The Leaves Stay Green 2012

The Kimba Griffith Septet – Each Time The First Time 2015

Appointments/Engagements

The Wheeler Centre: Ritual/Extinction; the future of Death (panel member 2015)

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries' Trust: 'That Death Thing' Keynote speaker 2016

The Groundswell Project: Dying to know Day collaborator 2015

Ryan Griffith Guitarist - Musical Director – DJ - Producer

Education:

Victorian College of the Arts – Bachelor Creative Arts (Music)
Deakin University – Diploma of Applied Learning

Musical Direction:

Sydney Olympics 2000– Welcome the World Musical Director
Perfect Day Music 2007- present – Musical Director
Melbourne Spring Fashion Week Launch 2016 - Musical Director

Festivals:

Melbourne Fashion Festival - DJ L'Oreal Boat 2009, DJ Opening Party 2010
Melbourne Festival – Spiegel Tent DJ 2002-3
Adelaide Festival – The Half Light Musical Director 2002
Takatsuki Jazz featured artist 2004-5
Kobe Jazz featured artist 2005
Edinburgh Festival – Gilded Balloon featured artist 2006
Wangaratta Jazz Festival – featured artist 2014, 2015, 2016

Awards:

Triple J Unearthed Winner 1997
Frankston Guitar Festival – Young Guitarist of the Year 2000 – Finalist
National Jazz Awards 2014 - Finalist

Projects:

Kimba & Ryan – Bell Award Nominees 2012
Kimba Griffith – Musical Director/Arranger
Ryan Griffith Trio
Jen Cloher – Producer/Session guitarist
Gotye – Session guitarist

Discography:

Humbug - *Kind Surprise* 1997
Humbug - *Fuzzy Dice* 1998
Non Linear Effect - *The Parkville Sessions* 2003
Loopline – *Loopline* 2006
Kimba & Ryan - *The Leaves Stay Green* 2012
Kimba Griffith – *Each Time The First Time* 2015

Appointments:

Melbourne Arts Centre – Digital Learning Hub Lecturer
Dept Premier & Cabinet – Artist in Schools Panel Member
Dept Education – Performing Arts Curator
Arts Education VIC – Guest lecturer
Victorian College of the Arts, Monash University – Guest Lecturer

Residencies:

City of Melbourne, Melbourne Aquarium, Artist in Residence 2003
Osaka International School, Artist in Residence 2005
Platform Emerging Artists - Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 2006
Australian Embassy, Paris – Artist in Residence 2006

Director - Melinda Hetzel

Melinda Hetzel directs and devises original, image-based performance and live art. Her extensive body of work features visually stunning, site-specific works and dynamic, ensemble-based theatre.

Since graduating in Creative Arts (Victorian College of the Arts, 2000), Melinda has presented a wide range of work in Australia, as well as Singapore and Germany.

In 2002 Melinda was invited to Germany to direct and devise an Australian-German co-production, *Einst zu einer Zeit...* which received the [Arena Festival](#) Audience Award, returning in 2005 as a jury member for the festival.

Melinda was founding member and Artistic Director of [Peepshow Inc](#) 2003-13. During this time she directed and co-devised the company's entire repertoire, including: *Slanting into the Void* (Arts House, 2006), *The Mysteries of the Convent* (Abbotsford Convent, 2006-08), *The Lost Story of the Magdalen Asylum*, (Abbotsford Convent, 2010) nominated for a [Green Room Award](#) for Best Site-specific Performance, *Divine: Part One* (Abbotsford Convent, 2011) nominated for a Green Room Award for Costume and Set Design by Dayna Morrissey and, most recently, *A Bird, a Tree, the Moon* (City

Square, 2012). Melinda was also the interim Artistic Director/ CEO of [St Martins Youth Arts Centre](#) in 2012.

Melinda's site-responsive work, [Fly By Night](#), designed for the foyer spaces of Melbourne's Hamer Hall premiered as part of Nite Art and Open House Melbourne in July 2015. Fly By Night was nominated for a [Green Room Award for Design in Contemporary Performance](#) (Visual and Digital App Design). The project also showcased at the [Australian Performing Arts Market](#) 2016 in Brisbane. More recently [Madame Tulalah's Magnificent Box](#) premiered as part of Melbourne Fringe 2016.

PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION

This piece runs for approximately 65 minutes without an interval, however intervals can be added at the Presenter's discretion.

SUITABLE VENUES

Because this work began as a musical performance, it's incredibly versatile and the theatrical elements can be adjusted to suit any type of space.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

6 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

150 minutes

LICENCING AGREEMENTS

Because there are covers of songs performed in the show, licencing is required. Total costs pending.

APRA OBLIGATIONS

Because there are covers of songs performed in the show, APRA registration is required. Total costs pending.

TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 6 people.

Name	Role
Kimba Griffith	Performer
Ryan GRiffith	Musician
Niko Schauble	Musician
Julien Wilson	Musician
Tamara Murphy	Musician
TBC	AV tech

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2015	Paris Cat Jazz Club	2
2016	Melbourne Recital Centre	1
2016	Wangaratta Festival of Jazz and Blues	1

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

This piece is accompanied by a side project 'This is who I was Then' (www.teenagejournals.com) a blog-based space that encourages collaboration between audience and performer through shared diary entries, uploaded cover versions of songs, and 'mix-tape' style lists of songs for inclusion in the performed piece.

Offering audience members and the public the opportunity to record their own versions of 'the songs that saved their life' and including those on the blog is a precious and meaningful way to share in the power of the music that moved us. There is scope for workshops with Kimba around journal-writing and using personal narratives for creative work, as well as song-writing workshops with Ryan Griffith using personal stories and simple chord structures on ukulele to make little ditties.

Offering audience members and the public the opportunity to record their own versions of 'the songs that saved their life' and including those on the blog is a precious and meaningful way to share in the power of the music that moved us.

The show affects people in a deep and moving way. Here is an email from an audience member at our last show:

Kimba,
Your show at Wangaratta jazz festival took 40 odd years off my life. Thank you for a world class performance. It was like being transported to Broadway or New York. Didn't feel like I was in St Pat's hall. You and the band were theatrical, magical, honest and pure. Went home after so as to finish on a high! Congrats on an amazing performance. Your future is bright.
Trish

DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

Journal Writing and Personal Narrative: Join Kimba to explore ways to begin recording personal narratives in your own unique and creative way. The workshop includes automatic writing, creative lists, saijiki (Japanese-inspired seasonal lists and chronicles) and lyrical writing.

Discover ways to inspire writing for yourself about your life. If people want to, they can share their entries (named or anonymous) on the 'This is who I was then' blog.

Participants should bring a selection of pens and a journal, notebook or loose leaf paper.

My songs, Your songs, Our Songs: Guitarist and songwriter Ryan Griffith offers the chance to learn some simple ways to begin penning your own songs. Learn some simple chords on the ukulele, take part in a group song-writing session and then work with Ryan to pen your own.

If people want to, they can record their songs (named or anonymous) for inclusion on the 'This is who I was then' blog.

COST

These workshops are available either as a cost per participant or presenter fee, subject to negotiation

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

These workshops can be subtly altered to cater for almost any age-group from 13 and above. They can be marketed alongside the show and blog (radio stations tend to adore this concept and offer plenty of airtime!) and could be sent to high schools and universities as well as creative centres, libraries and anywhere creative people gather.

MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

The Songs That Saved Your Life: A theatrical music event that puts iconic songs through the jazz filter

Short

Rising jazz chanteuse Kimba Griffith with has enjoyed sell-out performances of her work 'The Songs That Saved Your Life'. This theatrical gig puts the songs of our misspent youth through the jazz filter. Nirvana, the Violent Femmes, The Smiths, the music of David Lynch's film and more meet with the power of improvised music. The work also includes a collaborative side project called 'This is Who I Was Then' (www.teenagejournals.com) A show for anybody who was ever young and misunderstood.

Extended

Rising jazz Chanteuse Kimba Griffith is lauded for her gift of drawing out the intricacies of a song's deeper story; Kimba is now touring with a new project that offers some compelling contrasts; the darkly sensitive rendering of iconic songs from the alternative rock and grunge era of the 1990's, backed by some of Australia's most celebrated improvisational jazz musicians.

The Songs That Saved Your Life Project is the shadow side of Kimba's gift for captivating storytelling through the lyric and melody of a tune. The chrysalis for this lyrical facility came from far outside the jazz canon during Kimba's pent-up teenage years in small-town Canberra. This collection of seminal tunes is gathered from artists including The Smiths, Nirvana, The Violent Femmes, and the filmic soundtracks to David Lynch films.

This repertoire reflects the teenage angst that many artists never quite reconcile, drawing on themes of escape and an attraction to the shadow sides of art, music and relationships.

Joining Kimba to explore these iconic indie rock tunes through the lens of jazz are some of Australia's most celebrated improvising musicians (Julien Wilson, sax; Niko Schauble, drums; Ryan Griffith, guitar, Tamara Murphy, bass).

The result is a thrilling collection of sensitive and clear-voiced vocals backed by the wild meandering power of jazz improvisation, spoken words and fragments of nostalgia with the verve and freedom of original music.

Audience members can also request songs ahead of time, interact with Kimba and offer their covers of favourite tunes, or snippets from old teenage journals via her side project www.teenagejournals.com

"Kimba Griffith has a classic approach to her vocals and is pitch perfect the whole way with no blemishes." The Music

"Kimba's fine tone and phrasing take us down new pathways, creating intimate settings that captivate" The Age

MARKETING SUMMARY

This piece has been very popular with the media prior to both its previous runs. We have had live to air performances on ABC 774 and ABC Goulburn Murray with presenters asking people to phone in their 'songs that saved their life'. Switchboards lit up! We were also featured on prominent local FM station Edge FM ahead of the Wangaratta Jazz Festival for a long segment where listeners called in.

We ran Facebook and Instagram ads both promoting the show and asking for contributions, diary entries and cover songs, and have had a solid response to these call outs.

We were also featured in the local newspapers and some jazz blogs. The collaborative element is effective and sharing our soundcloud has also garnered strong results.

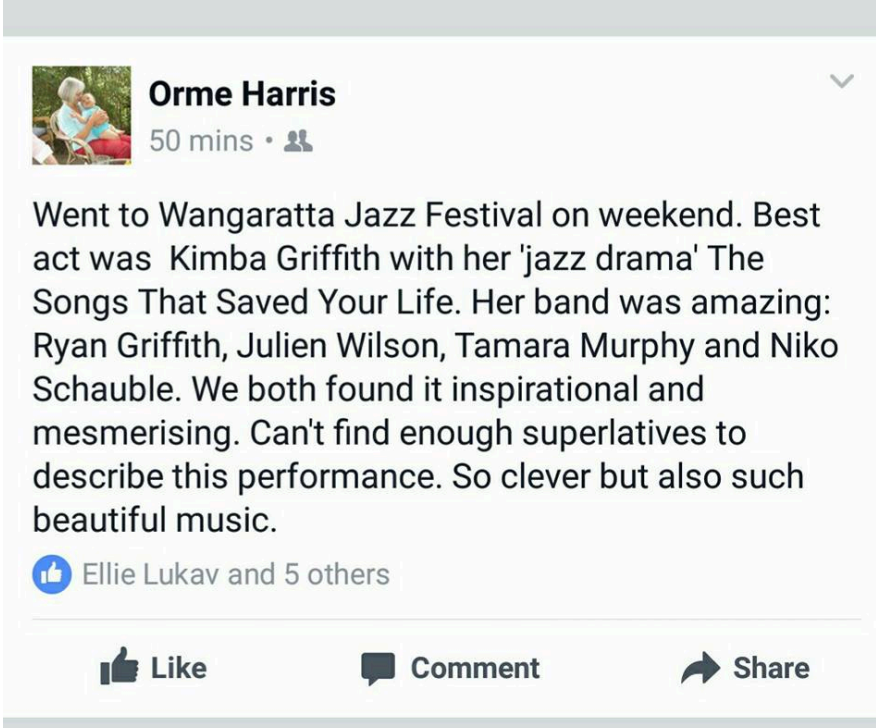
MEDIA QUOTES

AUDIENCE REVIEWS


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Trish






A screenshot of a Facebook post by Orme Harris. The post is 50 minutes old and is public. The text of the post reads: "Went to Wangaratta Jazz Festival on weekend. Best act was Kimba Griffith with her 'jazz drama' The Songs That Saved Your Life. Her band was amazing: Ryan Griffith, Julien Wilson, Tamara Murphy and Niko Schauble. We both found it inspirational and mesmerising. Can't find enough superlatives to describe this performance. So clever but also such beautiful music." Below the text, it shows that Ellie Lukav and 5 others liked the post. At the bottom of the post are the interaction buttons: Like, Comment, and Share.

Orme Harris
50 mins • 

Went to Wangaratta Jazz Festival on weekend. Best act was Kimba Griffith with her 'jazz drama' The Songs That Saved Your Life. Her band was amazing: Ryan Griffith, Julien Wilson, Tamara Murphy and Niko Schauble. We both found it inspirational and mesmerising. Can't find enough superlatives to describe this performance. So clever but also such beautiful music.

 Ellie Lukav and 5 others

 Like  Comment  Share

COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

Clancy Milne: 0401228734

VIDEO LINKS

A highlights video is in production, available very soon!

IMAGES

Coming soon! Some existing promo images (high res available)



MARKETING MATERIALS

6 track EP in post production. Two singles available now. Listen at <https://soundcloud.com/kimba-griffith/sets/the-songs-that-saved-your-life>

Blog at www.teenagejournals.com

CONTENT WARNINGS / AUDIENCES TO AVOID

There is a minimal amount of coarse language and some broad adult themes.

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Nil

TEACHER'S RESOURCES

Not as yet.

PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY

2 powered speakers

3-4 foldback wedges

8 channel mixer

basic lighting rig with some preset capabilities

two vocal mics and stands

mics for sax and drums and to mic guitar/bass amps

2-3 DVD players with universal remotes

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

12pm: Tech arrives to set lighting rig and AV

12:30pm: Kimba and Ryan to arrange delivery of tv sets and staging props

2pm: Check lighting plot, set stage and DVD loops on TV

4pm: Tech Rehearsal

5:30pm Sound Check

7pm: Performance

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

Ideally one stage manager to assist with bump in and AV

Door person

STAGE

Main stage elements are old 90's tvs stacked on either side of stage (4 or 5 in total) that loop a video installation...a couple of side tables with a lamp and tape deck and lots of journals, cassette tapes and teenage detritus

Floor light to offer silhouette of performer

[Kimba] to supply

All props

Venue to supply

AV and lighting rig

Help sourcing old working tvs is appreciated!

LIGHTING

TBC

[Company] to supply

What will you supply?

Venue to supply

What do you need the venue to supply?

SOUND

There is a sound installation as audience enters; backline for the band

[Company] to supply

The sound piece

Cymbals and instruments

Venue to supply

PA and backline

AV

As above

WARDROBE

The performer is costumed with specialist garments for a costume reveal at show climax.

Kimba to supply costume

Venue to supply

Dressing room/green room with hanging space

Laundry facilities appreciated but not crucial

FREIGHT NOTES

We need to transport some large instruments and props. We don't have a truck.

CRITICAL ISSUES

Very few if any critical issues aside from having backline and transporting instruments

CONTACTS

Production/Performance/Marketing & Admin Queries:

Kimba Griffith Kimba@kimbagriffith.com

0430378388

AV/Technical/Music/Set Enquiries:

Ryan Griffith genkigriff@gmail.com

0430378389