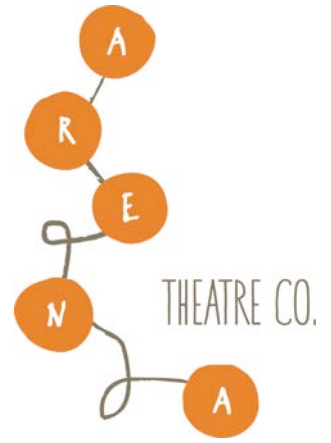


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SUNNY RAY AND THE MAGNIFICENT MOON

An Arena Theatre Company and Salvador Dinosaur Production



Imagine what it's like to stay up all night!

Meet Sunny Ray: happy light, a true wonder of the world. Sunny loves her life but has always secretly wanted to know...what happens when she goes to bed? Meet her best friend in the sky the Magnificent Moon: the all night party guy who gets to stay up late EVERY single night! Then one bedtime Sunny Ray breaks all the rules and doesn't go to sleep...What happens when the Sun and the Moon stay up all night together?

Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon comes from the imaginations of Clare Bartholomew and Daniel Tobias, creators of the internationally acclaimed Comedy Festival favourite, *Die Roten Punkte*, and one of Australia's leading creators of theatre for young audiences, Arena Theatre Company directed by Christian Leavesley.

Sunny Ray features original music inspired by everything from folk to funk, disco and pop written by Bartholomew and Tobias with dramaturgy from Casey Bennetto (*Keating! The Musical*).

Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon will delight audiences aged four years and over.

★★★★ "Star-spangled theatre rock party. This affectionate, well thought out production is a terrific small-scale jewel." *Sydney Morning Herald*

★★★★ "Very entertaining" *Time Out Sydney*

CREDITS

Written and performed by Clare Bartholomew and Daniel Tobias

Director: Christian Leavesley

Dramaturgy: Casey Bennetto

Design: Emily Barrie

Lighting Design: Richard Vabre

Music Production: Benjamin Hense

Assistant Director: Jolyon James

Choreography: Gabi Barton

ARENA THEATRE COMPANY

For 50 years Arena Theatre Company has been powered by the twin drivers of art and audience: creating inspiring live performance known for genuine engagement with young people aged 5 – 25. High quality, original, artistically ambitious theatre defines Arena's success. Our work has recently been seen at Melbourne Theatre Company, Melbourne Festival, Perth International Arts Festival, Bleach Festival, Sydney Opera House, Brisbane Powerhouse and regional venues and centres across Australia.

SALVADOR DINOSAUR

Salvador Dinosaur is the creative menagerie of Clare Bartholomew and Daniel Tobias. Since 2005 they have been creating theatre with irreverent humour that resonates with audiences of any generation.

They have produced more than 18 international tours to over 10 countries around the world presenting everywhere from Segerstrom Performing Arts Centre USA, Off Broadway at the Barrow Street Theatre NY, Soho Theatre London, Norwich and Norfolk Arts Festival UK, Spoleto USA, Sydney Arts Festival and Festival Van Wondering in Belgium, to name a few.

Recently they created the award winning **The Orchid and the Crow** and also **Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon** in partnership with Arena, which was recently presented by The Sydney Arts Festival in 2016.

VIDEO LINKS

Promotional Video (30 seconds) - <https://vimeo.com/149795990>

Promotional Video (15 seconds) - <https://vimeo.com/149797220>

Full show (archival footage) - <https://vimeo.com/152661348>

Password: sunny

As recorded at Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent, Sydney Festival 2016.

REVIEW-TIME OUT

Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon

★★★★ 12 – 16, Kid-friendly, Kids, Performances, Sydney, Sydney Festival

<http://www.au.timeout.com/sydney/kids/events/44179/sunny-ray-and-the-magnificent-moon>



Imagine the fun of staying up all night, as dreamed by a little girl

The sun was out in full force the day my six-year-old daughter and I went to see Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon. Such was the ferocity of its blaze, temperatures were climbing up to the mid-30s and we were happy to retreat to the relative cool of the Magic Mirror Spiegeltent.

Inside the sun comes out again, except this time in the form of Sunny Ray who takes to the stage with her ukulele and a collection of inflatable flowers, broccoli, grass and cactus. Every morning she gets up bright and early and goes through the same motions, before handing over to the Magnificent Moon in the evening. The Magnificent moon is always ready to party, and while channelling a bit of Elvis Presley, entertains us with some rousing tunes.

Sunny Ray is intrigued – what would it be like if she stayed up late one night and partied with the moon?

She asks the kids in the audience if they've stayed up late and my daughter ventures she once stayed up till 9pm! Other kids have been up till midnight. Sunny Ray decides she is going to disguise herself behind some clouds and party with the moon. Of course, this has repercussions.

This is a very entertaining show aimed primarily at pre-schoolers who will find it easy to follow. My six year old daughter really enjoyed it as well, especially the bit where Sunny Ray stays up late. (I imagine there is a bit of wishful thinking going on there). Daniel Tobias is charming as the Magnificent Moon and we are all kept entertained by his catchy songs and funny jokes.

At the end of the show the performers wait for the audience outside so they can have a chat and take some photos. Making themselves accessible like this is a lovely touch at the end of a fun show.

All shows are suitable for ages four and up.

By Saman Shad | Photos by Jamie Williams

REVIEW-SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

Sydney Festival 2016: Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon glows bright to delight

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/theatre/sydney-festival-2016-sunny-ray-and-the-magnificent-moon-glows-bright-to-delight-20160113-gm4y5i.html>

January 13, 2016

Lenny Ann Low



Sunny Ray shines while Magnificent Moon dazzles at the Sydney Festival. *Photo: Sydney Festival*

SUNNY RAY AND THE MAGNIFICENT MOON

Magic Mirrors Spiegeltent, Sydney Festival Garden, January 13. Until January 16

★★★★

The sun is a bright and busy being. Every day she wakes up to rouse the flowers, the broccoli, the grass and a cactus, to tickle the Earth with bubbles of atmosphere and colour the world in glowing yellow light.

From her golden sun visor to her lemon-coloured nail polish and egg yolk jumpsuit, Sunny Ray is a radiant soul, ever encouraging as she triggers the morning, singing "It's a beautiful day".

Then, when she hands thing over to her best friend, Magnificent Moon, an easygoing guy in an Elvis-like jumpsuit with sparkly cape and boots, and platinum hair, she's off to bed.

Taking the reins, Moon is up for a party, a twinkling soiree complete with electric guitar and a nice line in endearing vanity.

And jokes. How do you know when the moon has had enough to eat? Take along a child to this world premiere children's show to hear them guffaw at the answer and sit entranced by the Magnificent Moon's paean to naughtiness, and general rock star ebullience.

They will also share Sunny Ray's curiosity about what happens if you stay up all night. If you don't go to bed and party with the moon.

What happens if the sun is too tired to wake up in the morning?

This affectionate, well thought out production is a terrific small-scale jewel. Simple, imaginative props conjure the garden, the sky, the Earth and the sun's energising warmth.

The performers and creators of *Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon*, Clare Bartholomew and Daniel Tobias, who are also known for their comic rock/post-punk/electro band Die Roten Punkte and distinctive solo and group theatre works, are nuanced, absorbing collaborators

Tobias' many songs – toe-tapping numbers illuminating Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon's personalities, the elementals of night and day and what it's like to be small in a big world – are top-notch.

Bartholomew and Tobias' sparky camaraderie and genuine characters woo and tickle the crowd's favour via the truths of friendship, the power of imagining and one star-spangled theatre rock party.

REVIEW – AUSSIE THEATRE

MICF for Kids: Sunny Ray and The Magnificent Moon

http://aussietheatre.com.au/reviews/micf-kids-sunny-ray-magnificent-moon?utm_campaign=coschedule&utm_source=facebook_page&utm_medium=AussieTheatre.com&utm_content=MICF+for+Kids%3A+Sunny+Ray+and+The+Magnificent+Moon

April 8th, 2016
Anne-Marie Peard



Don't forget that there's plenty of brilliant comedy for kids at MICF.

From Arena Theatre and Claire Bartholomew and Daniel Tobias (who also created the glorious rock duo Die Roten Punkte), *Sunny Ray and The Magnificent Moon* is pure joy for the under-10s.

In her orange and yellow jumpsuit, sparklie eye shadow and yellow sun visor, Sunny sings "It's a wonderful day" as she wakes up her the plants and warms up the world. She loves being the sun and loves the beginning and end of each day when she hangs

out with her best friend, The Magnificent Moon. In an Elvis-inspired white and silver jumpsuit, the Moon knows how cool it is to sing and party all night with the stars.

When Sunny decides that it could be fun to stay up late, the Moon welcomes her to the party, but she sleeps in and he isn't sure how to wake up the world.

With original songs, lots of interactive fun, and extra naughtiness and love, Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon light up the Famous Spiegeltent and welcome children and their families to help make this gorgeous story about friendship and how it's cool to be different.

Sunny Ray and The Magnificent Moon

Details

Company: Arena Theatre and Salvador Dinosaur

Review Date: 7 April 2016

Venue: The Famous Spiegeltent, Arts Centre Melbourne

Closing Date: 10 April 2016

Bookings

Online: comedyfestival.com.au

REVIEW – STAGE WHISPERS

Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon

<http://www.stagewhispers.com.au/reviews/sunny-ray-and-magnificent-moon>

April 8th, 2016
Suzanne Sandow



**Arena Theatre Company. Melbourne International Comedy Festival.
The Famous Spiegel Tent at Arts Centre Melbourne. Directed by
Christian Leavesley. Dramaturgy by Casey Bennetto. April 5 – 10, 2016**

As consummate, flexible performers, Claire Bartholomew and Daniel Tobias present two well-rounded personas - Sunny Ray and Magnificent Moon, respectively.

This show is great entertainment for four to eight year olds and their parents and anyone who can be a big kid at heart when watching fun performances. Sunny Ray is a round and lively Sun. She is very cute; in fact she perfectly pulls off the lovely innocent persona of a three year old. Her wide-eyed innocence is charming and basic sincerity is very appealing to her audience. She is a comforting

creature of habits the perfect character for younger audience members to connect with. And she blows bubbles to enhance the world's atmosphere.

Magnificent Moon is the total narcissist who lives in a 'cool atmosphere hanging out with the stars.' His songs amuse and delight as he swivels his hips, a bit like Elvis. With his smooth mellow vocals Magnificent Moon is a hit with older kids and Mums alike. Quite obviously he knows all about naughtiness!

The theme and story is simple and clear. It is basically about Sunny Ray wanting to stay up late and party – party all night. Not such a great idea as it turns out but a perfect story for the age group. There is lovely audience interaction through questioning from the performers.

The show contains a number of fun and funny songs boppy songs and a couple of great kids jokes.

The children in the audience, when I attended, seem to be having fun particularly a number of real littlies who were entranced and grooving along with the great music.

Another really satisfying work from Arena Theatre Company that will hopefully be around and touring for a while, so keep an eye out for it if you have missed this short season.

MICF 2016: Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon

<https://theatrepress.com.au/2016/04/06/micf-2016-sunny-ray-and-the-magnificent-moon/>

April 6th, 2016
Joana Simmons

Family festival fun with the sun

Our favourite friends who warm our days and add wonder to our nights bring songs, stars and sparkle to the Spiegeltent and the 2016 Melbourne Comedy Festival for ages four and up. Fresh from a critically acclaimed world premiere at Sydney Festival, Sunny Ray and the Magnificent Moon, invented by Clare Bartholomew and Daniel Tobias (creators of Comedy Festival favourite, Die Roten Punkte) is a polished, humorous take on what happens when the sun stays up all night to party with the moon.



Every day Sunny Ray (**Clare Bartholomew**) wakes up before everyone else (even the birds!) She brings life to the plants and the sky with her cherry songs and sparkly demeanour before sending them to sleep and handing the sky over to the Magnificent Moon (**Daniel Tobias**). In an Elvis-meets-Abba white jumpsuit and silver cape, he hangs out with the stars and parties through the night: playing his electric guitar, crooning about his face and his phases, and **I can't help but take a shine to him**. Sunny Ray wants to stay up late like and party with the Magnificent Moon so hides behind a cloud and **they do all sorts of fun and naughty things all night!**

This show has colour and heart. It promotes the ideas that 'you are the best at being you' and 'sunshine never goes out of style' and teaches us all sorts of things, like where daylight savings comes from. The **puns and funny bits for the big kids** sprinkled throughout are clever to the point where I wanted more, and the original songs of various genres- folk, funk, disco and pop give the show pace and **a chance for the audience to get involved.**

Bartholomew's portrayal of Sunny Ray is **bright and likeable** and whilst her delivery of her songs was animated, the vocal quality was rather lacking and pitchy in contrast to the more accomplished Tobias. That being said, the **harmonies and movement in the duo numbers are bang on.** A highlight for me is the physical comedy and clowning between the two- you can tell they are seasoned artists, and **the audience is onboard the whole way.**

A magical starry curtain and well-designed props provide the perfect backdrop for this **Arena Theatre Company** gem directed by **Christian Leavesley**, with dramaturgy from **Casey Bennetto** (*Keating! The Musical*). If there's only one show you take your kids big and small to this festival, make it this one- **it'll brighten your day.**

Venue: The Famous Spiegeltent at Arts Centre Melbourne
Dates: Tuesday 5 until Sunday 10 April
Time: 11am
Tickets: \$25
Bookings: www.comedyfestival.com.au