

**Velvet Helmet presents...**  
**Best in Show!**



*"JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF DECADENCE AND BEWILDERMENT,  
AMUSEMENT AND PROFUNDITY"*



*Image: Martin Ingle*

# Contents

COMPANY PROFILE .....	3
ABOUT THE SHOW .....	3
PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS .....	4
PRODUCTION DETAILS .....	5
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT.....	5
MARKETING AND BIOS.....	7
CONTACTS .....	9



*Image: Martin Ingle*

## COMPANY PROFILE

Velvet Helmet was established early in 2015 and has quickly grown into the shoes of Queensland's Premier Cabaret Producing House under the helm of Producer Eloise Maree. Monthly, the guest programmers and marketer Nadia Jade Okorn are joined by a motley collective of emerging and established artists; keen to push the boundaries and thrill the senses.

Monthly events have so far been held at New Globe Theatre (Brisbane) since early 2015 and the brand has become the darling of arts lovers and aficionados. With the support of the New Globe Theatre and other partners ranging from Queensland Poetry Festival, Brisbane Festival, Ruckus Slam Poetry and Wonderland Festival (Brisbane Powerhouse) our genesis is delicious. We have been fortunate to bear witness to provocative and risky new talents accompanied by increasing acclaim. Isn't just lovely to see what comes out of the dark corners when an empty stage beckons...

This is it. This is where the music plays and the stories start. This is the cabaret you wanted to participate in, and you shall. Come and play, come one, come all.

Producer & Tour Manager: Eloise Maree  
Marketer: Nadia Jade Okorn



Image: Martin Ingle

## ABOUT THE SHOW

### SHOW SYNOPSIS

*"...a feast of wondrous entertainment designed to lift your spirits and transport you to many altered realities"*

- Concrete Playground

Velvet Helmet presents... Best In Show! is a veritable smorgasbord of comedy, music, clowning, sideshow and cabaret, featuring some of Brisbane's finest fringe performers. The show includes your host for the evening - the acclaimed circus performer and professional idiot Pitisi Hatcher. She is joined by the sideshow and burlesque dancer Pain Proof Pixie, stand-up comedian and buffoon Tim Monley, and the whimsical clown, Phoebe Manning with a live soundtrack to the entire event performed live by an all-star line-up of the Ragtag Band, comprised of the well-known Brisbane musical maestros Wayne Jennings, Richard Grantham, Alice Wheeler and James Lee.

## PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

### SUITABLE VENUES

Velvet Helmet presents... BEST IN SHOW is most suited to managed venues but larger performance spaces, tents, halls, theatres and other venues are also suitable. Minimum stage dimension of 6 x 8 m is required.

### RUN TIME OF PERFORMANCE

55 minutes with one act plus local performer OR 50 minutes with standard show

### MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

8 performances

### MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

90 minutes

### APRA OBLIGATIONS

No APRA songs are used

### TOURING PERSONNEL

The touring party consists of 8-9 people.

Name	Role
Eloise Maree	Tour Manager (OPTIONAL)
Stage Manager	Stage Manager, Operator
RagTag Band	Richard Grantham, Wayne Jennings, Alice Wheeler – 3 people
Pitisi Hatcher	Performer/ Host
Rebekah Yeo	Pain Proof Pixie/ Performer
Tim Monley	Gary Nostrils/ Performer
Pheobe Manning	Earnest/ Performer

### PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Year	Venue	Number of performances
2015	Wonderland Festival – Brisbane Powerhouse, Visy Theatre	1
2016	Gluttony, Adelaide Fringe Festival	8

## PRODUCTION DETAILS

### TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Velvet Helmet presents... BEST IN SHOW! has been designed as a touring show with some circus rigging requirements (two points for slack rope). It is a variety show, relying on strong lighting and a simple touring set to enhance the acts. Basic requirements are outlined below.

### EXAMPLE SCHEDULE

An example bump in, performance, bump out, schedule is below. Further time can be saved if the venue is willing to do a pre-rig of the lighting equipment prior to bump in.

Time	Action
0800-1200	Bump In & Rig
1300-1430	LX Focus, SND EQ
1500-1800	Tech Rehearsal
1930-2040	Performance
2100-0000	Bump Out

### CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

2x Technical Crew for Bump In & Rig. (4 hours)

1x Technical Crew for LX Focus & EQ, Tech Rehearsal, Performance and Bump Out. (10 hours approx.)

### STAGE

Velvet Helmet presents... Best in Show is a variety show and operates best in a managed space. It is adaptable to Fringe Festival venues. The set is minimal

Velvet Helmet presents... BEST IN SHOW! to supply:

Set and props (minimal), circus equipment and rigger

Venue to supply:

Rigging at the back of the stage and onstage.

### LIGHTING

The required lighting rig is not complex, and can be run off 2 dimmer racks of 12 channels each.

Velvet Helmet presents... Best in Show! can tour its own Lighting Console, an ETC Element. Please forward venue technical specifications and lantern stock for consultation with our lighting designer.

### SOUND

Velvet Helmet presents... BEST IN SHOW! requires a P.A. and all vocals and instruments require (in larger venues) plug ins and mics. The house band plays tracks live, requiring venue sound tech consultation – surround sound preferred.

Velvet Helmet presents... Best in Show! to supply:

Instruments (keyboard, double bass, ukulele, trumpet, piano accordion, shahi baaja, viola)

Venue to supply

PA with 16 channels, 3x dynamic microphones for vox (larger venues), 5 x DI and 1 x instrument mic



## AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

### OVERVIEW

Velvet Helmet presents... Best in Show! provides two audience engagement opportunities, with room for discussion to tailor them to your community. We are dedicated to audience engagement and are keen to do after show discussions in addition to workshops. We can also work with your community's needs to tailor a community engagement package to their requirements.

### TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience for Velvet Helmet presents... Best in Show! is a cabaret, circus and/or vaudeville audience of all ages; specifically 15+ recommended. It is suited to an audience demographic who enjoy comedy, risk-taking, spectacle and a sense of the unknown. Having been booked to open Wonderland Festival (Brisbane Powerhouse) and Gluttony (Adelaide Fringe Festival), the show is attractive to audiences that take some creative risks. We intend to engage with this audience both previous to and during our stay in your location.

### DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

#### **Community Engagement: Local Cabaret/ Circus Performer**

The performance can accommodate a local act to do a guest performance in the show. This is arranged with the producer and host, allowing a local performer to bring their talent and audience.

#### **Workshop: Circus, Contortion, Music, Clowning, Performance-Making, Collaboration Available**

Depending on the needs and likes of your community, the team can provide workshops in various areas suitable for children, highschool students, university students and adults. Each of our artists has unique workshop skills – a total of ten workshops are available – for full workshop details email us. Our artists are highly trained in workshop delivery with experience ranging from Deep Blue Orchestra, Gaullier Training (Paris), Vulcana Women's Circus and more.



*Image: Martin Ingle*

The musicians and performers are also able to do a roving set through your local community or markets to spark interest in your community for the show.

#### COST

Cost (workshop): Either \$20 per participant (3 hours) or a \$600 fee for performers.

Cost (performance): Community Engagement: Free for local performer, or roving set \$600

### TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

15+ for adult workshops – target audience is people interested in creating performance/ with a passion for music and theatre. Tailored workshops for children can also be discussed.

## MARKETING

### MARKETING COPY

*One line:* We want to party with you! Join Velvet Helmet for a night of decadence and bewilderment.

*Short:* Velvet Helmet presents... Best In Show! is a veritable smorgasbord of comedy, music, clowning, sideshow and cabaret, featuring some of Brisbane's finest fringe performers. The show includes your host for the evening - the acclaimed circus performer and professional idiot Pitisi Hatcher. She is joined by the sideshow and burlesque dancer Pain Proof Pixie, stand-up comedian and buffoon Tim Monley, and the whimsical clown, Phoebe Manning with a live soundtrack to the entire event performed live by an all-star line-up of the Ragtag Band, comprised of the well-known Brisbane musical maestros Wayne Jennings, Richard Grantham, Alice Wheeler and James Lee.

### Media quotes

"Velvet Helmet is LIFE, is BIRTH, is the seed on the forest floor, deposited by a ruddy great soaring bird and left to grow beneath the lush green canopy, beneath the rotting leaf matter. It is fed by wild animals and many legged creatures until it germinates from an idea, sprouts limbs and eventually cartwheels forth from the brambles."

Kevin Liepins, Weekend Notes

"Velvet Helmet beam their way into Brisbane's heart with an intergalactic line-up of acts that cross all kinds of creative light years."

Rhumer Diball, Kangarhumer

### MARKETING SUMMARY

Marketing will include a video short, poster images, production images and social media interaction.

### IMAGES

Production Images available on request through Dropbox link

### MARKETING MATERIALS

Previous performance reviews - Press release, video link, interviews available

### Content Warnings/Audiences to avoid

A VH cabaret is likely to contain adult themes and partial nudity, 15+ recommended.

### TEACHER'S RESOURCES AVAILABLE

#### **Website:**

[www.velvethelmet.wordpress.com](http://www.velvethelmet.wordpress.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/1800dontpanic](https://www.facebook.com/1800dontpanic)

**Instagram:** velvet.helmet

**Twitter:** velvet\_helmet



*Image: Martin Ingle*

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Eloise Maree: Tour Manager and Producer**

Eloise Maree is a creative producer, tour manager and President of Velvet Helmet. She has worked across Australia and Internationally. Tours and shows she has produced have spanned Arts House, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Brisbane Powerhouse, La Mama, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, USQ ArtsWorx, Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Melbourne Fringe Hub and New Globe Theatre. She produced Brisbane's international live art festival, exist-ence in 2013. She regularly works for MONA, Falls Festival, Cygnet Folk Festival and more as a contractor.

### **Pitisi Hatcher as 'Host with the Most'**

The gracious and lovely Pitisi Hatcher will be our hostess with the most-est, our compere beyond compare, our evocative guide and our provactive muse... Brisbane's delightful chanteuse and acrobat of the circus scene, infamous for her off the cuff solo acts, her acrobatic skills, as a core member of Vulcana Women's Circus, and circus troupe the MisFits. This is one class-ay lady!

### **Rebekah Yeo is the Pain Proof Pixie**

A delightful little oddity, a sideshow darkling, and a pixie gone astray. Her uniquely styled acts call on a romantic vision of the traveling circus, the alley-way sideshow, and the vaudeville spectacles of yesteryear. She takes classic sideshow and vaudeville acts to make them her own. Her specialties include (but are not limited to) circus hooping, fire eating and spinning, playing the musical saw, lying on a terrifyingly sharp bed of nails, and leaving a trail of pixie dust where ever she goes.

### **Tim Monley is Gary Nostrils**

Actor, screen-writer, producer, creator of large-scale interactive games a la Woodfordia, flash mob afficiaondo, fire sculptor, feet bus driver, professional idiot, masterful physical performer, cheeky clown, general scallywag and rabble-rouser. Trained in Paris in clowning, ascend the heavens in a most unexpected way with our own spirit animal, Gary Nostrils himself.

### **Phoebe Manning is Earnest (...ly looking for love)**

Phoebe Manning has loved Circus for a long time. She did a BA in drama and become a highschool teacher. Realising her dreams lay in circus, she became a dedicated performer and facilitator. Her passion is character clown. Earnest is an old world character who has been unlucky in love. Come with Earnest on a heartfelt journey of human connection, vulnerability and love.

### **Wayne Jennings, Richard Grantham, Alice Wheeler and James Lee are The RagTag Band.**

This all-star line-up of some of Brisbane's finest musicians have been playing dark and chaotic and sexy cabaret songs around Brisbane's Burlesque clubs for several years now, but recently have been flirting with respectable audiences like yourselves. Recently described by CollapseBoard as "equally dorky, endearing, wryly observant and tongue-in-cheek," they have created a brand new score just to accompany the saucy performers you will be seeing on the Velvet Helmet stage. They employ a bewildering selection of assorted instruments - juggling cello, ukulele, viola, guitar, clarinet, toy pianos, nose-flutes, and other exotica as they interpret classical and pop music in their own charmingly devious style.

### **Marketing: Nadia Jade Okorn**



## CONTACTS

Eloise Maree

Tour Manager: Producer

0435573109

[velvethelmetbris@gmail.com](mailto:velvethelmetbris@gmail.com)

12 Wellington Rd Red Hill 4059



*Image: Martin Ingle*