



Very Happy
+ Children with
+ Bright and
+ Wonderful
+ Futures
JOPUKA 2021

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Jopuka acknowledges we reside on the stolen lands of the *Darkinjung* People. We pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Always was, Always will be, Aboriginal Land

VERY HAPPY CHILDREN WITH BRIGHT AND WONDERFUL FUTURES

Commissioned by

JOPUKA AND SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YOUTH ARTS

Writer and Designer

JOSHUA MAXWELL

Director

CalLEN PURCELL

Associate Director

ETHAN DALE

Dramaturg and Additional Material

JAMIE HORNSBY

Composer

AMY FLANNERY with **KANI LUKUTA**

Lighting Designer

NIK LYONS

Stage Manager

EVELYN LUCK

Developed with

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN YOUTH ARTS

ALAN GRACE

IZZY RAJ SEPPING

LEILA MANGOS

Original Music by

**KALYANI BURKE, TAHLIA NOTT, AND MILO
POWER**

Photographer

AMY SEABORN

LISA HAYMES

COVID and Welfare

KELLY MAXWELL

South Australian Director

TAMARA COLLINS

with

ELOISE HUNT

RHIANNA LEIGH

ELLA MCCRAY

KANI LUKUTA

and

**AMANI HALAK, ELODIE TIPTON - AKERS,
EVANGELINE PETERSON, KHY ELLIOT
JOSEPH GALEA, IBI HALAK, MILO POWER
ANNKEA HOLLAND, BROOKE SHORTEN,
ABBY MUDDLE, HANNAH DUGGAN, SKYE GLEESON
MIA DRENGENBERG, ASHLEE GRANT
CHARLOTTE GARDINER, LUCINDA FORD
ISABELLA CARPENTER, ANNA CLARIE BAINES**

Proudly Supported by

**CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL
SIXT5 PRODUCTIONS**

This performance runs one hour with no interval

FROM THE WRITER

Just over two years ago I was standing on the steps of South Australian Parliament House surrounded by a group of 3000 inspiring young people, there was hundreds of thousands of their peers protesting globally demanding action on climate change - I was blown away at how they were using their voice to demand change. A light blub lit up in my mind. I reacted out to our great friends at South Australian Youth Arts and pitched them an idea and we got to work on a peice of theatre about the schools strike movement.

However, it wasn't until the devestating Black Summer fires and the incredible courage of so many young people during that time did this show truly find it's voice and evolve into what you see today.

It hasn't been easy, creating a collabraitive theatre work across two states during a pandemic has been chaotic at times, yet very rewarding. It's been such a learning. It proves art rises above all. We must thank the South Australian creative team, Tamara, Alan, and Rebecca for their ongoing support.

It's taken a small army of creatives to bring this work to the stage here on the Coast. Lead by the creative genius that is Callan Purcell. The young people have relished working with him. He along with associate director Ethan Dale, Composer Amy Flannery, Lighting Designer Nik Lyons, and stage manager Evelyn, have created something incredibly special.

I also want to thank the young people who inspired this show, and contributed to it's creation. Namely, Izzy Raj-Sepping and Leila Mangos, while we don't tell their exact stories in this work we've be able borrow enough inspiration to give these characters life.

We've had a brilliant cast who've worked through an insane set of circumstances, they've truly embraced the creative process of creating a new theatre work almost from sratch. I'm super proud of them all.

Personally, I want to thank my dramaturg and "here-is-a-scene-better-than-your-entire-show" assitant writer, Jamie Hornsby, for being with my on this journey and letting me bounce my crazy ideas off you at ungodly ideas.

This isn't just piece of theatre, or a political statement, this is a battle cry, please take the message of this show, and if you haven't already join the fight for our future.

The future generations depend on us.

Joshua Maxwell

BANKSIA CAST

Izzy

ELOISE HUNT

Leila

AMANI HALAK

Earth

ELLA MCCRAY

Moon

KHY ELLIOT

Hunter

JOSEPH GALEA

Jace

THOMAS SCHRAMM

Annie

TAHLIA NOTT

The Spark

ABBY MUDDLE

The Embers

HANNAH DUGGAN

SKYE GLEESON

MIA DRENGENBERG

ASHLEE GRANT

CHARLOTTE GARDINER

Understudies / Swings

ABBY MUDDLE

BROOKE SHORTEN

EUCALYPTUS CAST

Izzy

RHIANNA LEIGH

Leila

ELODIE TIPTON-AKERS

Earth

KANI LUKUTA

Moon

EVANGELINE PETERSON

Hunter

IBI HALAK

Jace

ANNEKA HOLLAND

Annie

MILO POWER

The Spark

BROOKE SHORTEN

The Embers

HANNAH DUGGAN

LUCINDA FORD

ISABELLA CARPENTER

ANNA CLARIE BAINES

Voice Cast

ETHAN DALE

JOSHUA MAXWELL

SCOTT LEVI

LISA CHAPPELL

BARRIE RAJ SEPPINGS

ABOUT JOPUKA

Jopuka Productions is the Central Coast's leading youth-arts body. It was established specifically to provide performing arts training and development to a wide array of emerging artists, aged 12-26, from all across Darkinjung Country, on the Central Coast of New South Wales. Jopuka provides a safe and peer-driven space for emerging artists to hone their craft and forge their own pathways into the arts industry. We present unique and innovative seasons, filled to the brim with new works, Australian classics, cutting-edge musicals and Fringe favourites.

Jopuka has staged over 30 acclaimed productions, including a range of new and established works. We've commissioned seven new Australian works from emerging writers and theatre-makers across Australia, and even won a couple of awards in process. Since launching we've provided arts opportunities for over 900 young people across many areas of production.

Now neatly tucked away in our own venue, The Launch Pad, Jopuka is committed to creating innovative, inclusive and exceptional work with our community of emerging artists. Despite the challenges that 2020 has brought, Jopuka is still keeping the fire burning, and we look forward to sharing new work with our community soon.

JOPUKA GOES GREEN

This year we're ramping up our efforts to become more sustainable. One of the newest ways we are changing how we operate is scaling back our programmes, flyers, and posters. We'll now only be providing digital for our production and only be printing limited stocks of posters and flyers and were possible on 100% recycled paper.

As COVID-19 begins to slow we we'll be announcing a range of new initiatives to get the company more green.

Jopuka is a register COVIDSafe organisation

Flash, Video, Still Photographer are strictly prohibited

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LYN MAXWELL
HEADSPACE GOSFORD

the board of jopuka

patron **LISA CHAPPELL**

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vice-chair **DANIELLE BRAME WHITING**

secretary **KELLY MAXWELL**

treasurer **CHERYL AMEY**

director **ANTHONY WALL**

director **ANNA CARTER**

director **JAMIE HORNSBY**

director **TAYAH BLACKAMN**

director **ELYSE HAYHURST**

the staff of jopuka

artistic director **JOSHUA MAXWELL**

deputy AD **DANIELLE BRAME WHITING**

general manager **KELLY MAXWELL**

CFO **CHERYL AMEY**

class manager **GABRIELLE BROOKS**



TO FIND OUT MORE
www.jopuka.org.au



Create NSW
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