



CONNECT with *Hello Goodbye & Happy Birthday*

By Roslyn Oades & Collaborators

Post Show Talk with Director Roslyn Oades

Have you heard about verbatim performance? Or asked yourself how a Director makes the decisions they do? Or how they prepare for creating a new work?

Be a part of CONNECT and meet our special guest Director Roslyn Oades. Roslyn will talk about the process and experience of creating a verbatim audio-scripted performance and answer questions you may have.

Admission to CONNECT is FREE – just stay in your seats after the show. approx. 20 mins

About CONNECT

CONNECT is a new audience development program that provides opportunities for conversations with some of Australia's top arts practitioners and find out more about how their art is made and get behind the scenes of our 2017 season.

If you'd like to stay in touch and receive updates about future CONNECT activities for 2017 or want to make any suggestions for future connect events please contact your local theatre.

If you are new to CONNECT and want to find out more about our future events just call us!

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About the Director ROSLYN OADES

Roslyn Oades is a Melbourne-based theatre maker known for her innovative work in the field of headphone verbatim and audio cued performance. She was the 2013 Female Director-in-residence at Malthouse Theatre where she created *Hello, Goodbye & Happy Birthday* for the 2014 Melbourne Festival. Roslyn's work is predominantly audio-focused and she collaborates closely with sound artist extraordinaire Bob Scott.

Outside of theatre, Roslyn works as a voice artist, performer and puppeteer in film, TV and radio. She particularly enjoys voicing cartoon characters and can be heard on many well-loved TV animations, such as: *Bananas in Pyjamas*, *Tracey McBean*, *Dogstar*, *Zigby*, *Sea Princesses*, *ZuZu & the SuperNuffs* and *Bambaloo*



Photo credit: Pia Johnston

About the PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE & FORM

FORM

Roslyn conducts extensive interviews with diverse participants to capture their real-life responses, which then get edited into an audio script. The performers wear headphones on stage and are fed Roslyn's edited interviews, which they then perform to the audience. What you get is a snapshot of real life – all the coughs, stutters, laughs, pauses and turns of phrase that make real people so interesting. The performers – half from an older generation, half younger – perform the audio as they hear it. The show is equal parts hilarious, heart-breaking, and deeply, deeply human.

PERFORMANCE TECHNIQUE

Rather than reciting memorised lines the actors wear headphones and speak aloud a sequence of carefully edited audio interviews word-for-word as they are played to them. By confining the actors to the discipline of accompanying a recording with absolute precision (including every inflection, cough, stumble, breath and overlap), a curious, hyper-real performance style is established.

While the actors often adopt characters with an accent/ background/age/gender obviously not their own, the discipline of this technique prevents parody. It also allows the many quirks and imperfections of human speech to be acknowledged with integrity. As a theatre-maker, Roslyn operates from the principle that there is as much information embedded in the way someone speaks as what they are saying. By meticulously preserving the vocal print of real-life interviews in performance, the cast set out to mine the rich nuances of conversational speech like musicians following a score.



Director's Note

Several years ago I attended an 80th birthday party, followed shortly after by an 18th. It occurred to me during the birthday speeches that the former felt eerily like a farewell party and the latter a 'hello-world-here-I-come' type event. The juxtaposition of these two celebrations started me thinking about entrances and exits into adulthood and I guess into life itself – or at least the part you have control over (in theory).

*Concepts of the familiar and the unknown; experience and innocence; an opportunity to explore the bookends of a life fully lived. The source material for *Hello, Goodbye & Happy Birthday* is the result of an extensive period of engagement with local community members aged over the age of 80, followed by a similar process with groups of 18 year olds. Immersed in the communal environments of aged-care facilities and high schools – I set out to explore the thresholds of teen into adulthood, as well as independent adult into aged-care dependency. I also crashed as many 18th, 80th, 90th and 100th birthday parties as possible.*

WATCH A CLIP of Roslyn talking about the creative development & behind the scenes <https://youtu.be/5-1gpPSybd8>

REVIEWS

★★★★ Heartwarming ... deftly executed ... faultless performances ... the unguarded stories that emerge here are surprisingly elating ... Common humanity brings with it hilarity and heartbreak. *Hello, Goodbye and Happy Birthday* is made of powerful, life-affirming stuff. — The Age //

One of the most charming shows of the year. *Hello, Goodbye, Happy Birthday* is a truly celebratory glimpse of the vitality and resistance of two groups of people often marginalised or portrayed in ageist stereotypes. — Alison Croggon, ABC Arts //

Audio documentary rendered as magnificent verbatim theatre ... infused with a terrific sense of life rarely felt in a theatre. — John Bailey, Realtime //



THE CREATIVE TEAM

Cast: Jim Daly, Matthew Connell, Evelyn Krape & Roger Oakley
Direction/Audio-script: Roslyn Oades
Movement Director: Nat Cursio
Sound Design: Bob Scott & Russell Goldsmith
Lighting Design: Paul Jackson
Set/Costume Design: Christina Hayes
Audio-script editing: Roslyn Oades & Bob Scott
Script Dramaturge: Raimondo Cortese
Additional dramaturgy: Bob Scott, Nat Cursio, Paul Jackson & Yana Taylor
Interviews: Roslyn Oades
Interview assistance/Community photos: Piper Huynh
Production Stills: Jeff Busby
Community consultants: Paul Brophy at Sambell Lodge, Kirsty Baird at City of Yarra & Piper Huynh

Post show Talk

SCHEDULE

VENUES	DATE	PERFORMANCE TIME	POST SHOW TALK approx. 8.40pm
Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre	Friday 18 th August	7.30PM	Join Director Roslyn Oades as she talks about her creating & directing the work Inquiries : contact Caitlin on 8723 5741
Chaffey Theatre	Tuesday 22 nd August	7.30PM	Join Director Roslyn Oades as she talks about her creating & directing the work Inquiries : contact Nicole on 8586 8500