

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON – creator / performer

Christine Johnston is a Brisbane based performing artist/vocalist/writer/musician who has created a diverse range of works for events, festivals, art galleries, theatre, film and cabaret around Australia, New Zealand and Europe. A childhood of bush walking and sitting in the chook-pen, meant developing a keen appreciation for her feathered friends' varied voices. This ultimately led to a performance career beginning with the inclusion of a gift for mimicking birds. As much known for her singing and experimental use of voice as she is for her dramatic visual style and particular bent on humour, Christine began to combine music and performance with her visual arts background when creating works in and around the Brisbane arts and music scene from the late 1980s. Her early work with THE HIBISCUS SISTERS and band GEZABEL DINOSAUR led to regular appearances in the popular Brisbane cabaret series WOMEN IN VOICE, where she first began her regular collaborations with costume designer Selene Cochrane and developed her bird-calling character MADAME LARK which has toured around Australia and New Zealand since. Christine began playing the musical-saw and started her creative work with dancer/actor Lisa O'Neill and musician Peter Nelson, beginning with her highly acclaimed show DECENT SPINSTER, (which won a Matilda Commendation Award in 2002) touring to QPAC, Sydney Opera House, Brisbane Powerhouse and Adelaide Cabaret Festival between 2000 and 2003. Christine's creative ventures with Lisa also include ALL TOMORROW'S PARTIES 1 AND 2 and PIANISSIMO – commissioned by QPAC in 2003 and touring to the Sydney Opera House in 2004. They collaborated again with Peter Nelson when Christine created her first children's production FLUFF for the 2002 Out of the Box Festival of Early Childhood. FLUFF is continuing to tour to major venues and Festivals throughout Australia and New Zealand. Her show WARM AND FUZZY was part of Out of the Box Festival 2004 and followed FLUFF to the Sydney Opera House in 2005. Her other children's work included MYRTLE BY THE WATER commissioned by the Queensland Art Gallery as part of Kids APT. With Annie Lee, Christine is co-creator/writer of the multi-award-winning comedic trio THE KRANSKY SISTERS, where Christine plays Eve Kransky. THE KRANSKY SISTERS continue their national and international touring, including regular television appearances. Their Awards include Sydney Theatre Award 2008, Herald Angel Award for Excellence (Edinburgh) 2006, Australian Mo Award 2005, and The Age Critics Award, Best Newcomers Award, and Green Room Award for Melbourne International Comedy Festival 2004. Christine is currently developing a new work with Lisa O'Neill, Peter Nelson, visual artist Ahmarnya Price and costume designer Selene Cochrane. The project is called RRAMP and the work in progress showing was well received as part of World Theatre Festival 2011 Scratch Series, at the Brisbane Powerhouse. Websites: www.christinejohnston.com and www.thekranskysisters.com

LISA O'NEILL – creator / performer

Lisa O'Neill is a performer, choreographer, performance director and teacher working extensively across forms in dance, theatre, contemporary performance and new-media. She has developed a broad and comprehensive body of work informed by her diverse arts practice. Lisa has received numerous performance commissions, touring her solo and collaborative works nationally and internationally to festivals in England, Greece, Austria, Scotland, Japan, China and New Zealand. Lisa also worked and toured as an actor with FRANK THEATRE from 1995 – 2007. Highlights include performances at festivals in Japan, Czech Republic, Croatia and Turkey. Lisa is co-coordinator and director of the Advanced Diploma of Arts (Acting) course

at Southbank Institute of Technology, having taught at the Institute since 2001. She is a founding and core member of the new media company, TRANSMUTE COLLECTIVE which has presented interactive art installations in galleries across Australia, Europe, Asia and the United States of America and is co-director of THE BRIDES OF FRANK performance group and business enterprise. Her tour-ready performance works include acclaimed solo dance pieces, SWEET YETI, FUGU SAN and PIANISSIMO, a dance/musical theatre piece co-created with Christine Johnston. Most recent productions include the solo dance/theatre work THE PIPE MANAGER; and theatre work, The PINEAPPLE QUEEN. Lisa has also published an electronic GRAPHIC NOVEL of The Pipe Manager through Playlab Press. See artist website: www.lisaoneill.com

PETER NELSON – creator / performer

Peter Nelson has been involved in live performance and production within the Brisbane music industry for nearly 20 years. As a vocalist and trumpet player Peter was a member of TAXI, a popular Funk/Rock/Punk Quintet, while incorporating turntables keyboard and sampling with an electro funk act THE VISITORS. Both bands were local favourites receiving JJJ airplay and were regulars at Woodford Folk Festival, Livid, Big Day Out and The Valley Fiesta. Peter was also a member of T SQUARED, a studio project, who were runners up in Triple j Unearthed. They were featured on a Sony compilation CD and created a track remix for Katie Noonan's trio ELIXIR. Peter began musically collaborating on a variety of theatrical and film projects such as writing the musical score for LIVES AND LOVES performed at the Brisbane Powerhouse and for BOREDOM PATROL a short movie screened at the Dendy Cinemas. He has also collaborated on the sound design for art installation piece K:\012044 in the QLD Museum. As part of the electronic duo TWEAKS AND BEATS Peter co-remixed CRY for Brisbane band GEORGE. In 2000 Peter began work with Christine Johnston, as musician/performer creating the music score with Owen Newcomb and Trent Arkley-smith, for her highly acclaimed show DECENT SPINSTER, which was a feature at the Sydney Opera House, Brisbane Powerhouse, Adelaide Cabaret Festival, and Queensland Performing Arts Centre. A creative partnership was sparked between Christine Johnston, Lisa O'Neill and Peter, when they joined to collaborate on Christine's first children's production called FLUFF. Since it's commission in 2002 by the Out Of The Box Festival at QPAC, FLUFF has continued to tour nationally and internationally to high acclaim. They are continuing their collaboration on a new project called RRAMP, recently featured as a 'work in development' as part of The World Theatre Festival 2011's Scratch Series at the Brisbane Powerhouse. Peter is currently the sound designer for Kite Arts Education YONDER program, and runs an assisted music program for Queensland Cerebral Palsy League, fusing modified controllers with live and electronic music. Website: <http://www.picochan.com/>

AHMARNYA PRICE - animation

Ahmarnya is a visual artist and theatre maker currently living and working in Melbourne, Australia. Her art practice explores the relationship between image and narrative while playfully interpreting the complexities of the human experience. She investigates the way we make sense and non-sense out of the constant flow of information that surrounds us while translating that experience into both meaningful and absurd pictorial and theatrical moments. Since 1997 Ahmarnya has exhibited and performed regularly in artist run spaces, solo and group shows throughout Melbourne, Queensland, New Zealand, Edinburgh, Japan, Russia and the Czech Republic. She is represented by Gilligan Grant Gallery, Melbourne. Victoria. As well

as creating the animations for RRAMP, Ahmarnya currently works with BACK TO BACK THEATRE in Geelong as a tutor and artist. She is also the director/co-writer/designer of THE CHAOTIC ORDER – an inter-disciplinary performance ensemble housed at Footscray Community Arts Centre. For further information and examples of her work go to: <http://ahmarnyaprice.blogspot.com/>

JAXZYN – video producer

Taking a unique graphic design approach to video design, Jen Jackson, along with her team at JAXZYN have provided video and AV support for theatre and music performances both nationally and internationally including RRAMP (Brisbane Powerhouse 2011), I LOVE YOU BRO (La Boite Theatre 2010), HAMLET (La Boite Theatre 2010), THE PINEAPPLE QUEEN (La Boite Theatre 2009), THE PIPE MANAGER (Brisbane Powerhouse 2009), THE WINDOW (Adelaide Fringe 2008, Tokyo & Osaka Tour 2006), THE TEN TENORS, DEEP BLUE, THE 7th ASIA-PACIFIC WATABOSHI MUSIC FESTIVAL and KATE MILLER-HEIDKE. In 2010 Jen was honoured to receive a Matilda Award Commendation for design for Lisa O'Neill's, THE PINEAPPLE QUEEN. <http://www.jaxzyn.com/>

SELENE COCHRANE – costume designer

Brisbane based Selene Cochrane has been a costumier for over 15 years. Working in the fashion industry, she developed a passion for intricate period costume, and moved into theatre and performance art. Her detailed modern and period designs have featured in her work for numerous productions for performer Christine Johnston. As Wardrobe Supervisor for Queensland Ballet from 1999 to 2002, Selene designed and made costumes for many productions including PASSION AND ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI for Cathedrals Week, DON QUIXOTE, Sleeping Beauty and The Little Mermaid. Selene has also held workshops with young and teenage children in wearable art for “Xit 99” and “Out of the box”. She has recently retired from her most current role as Head of Wardrobe for Opera Queensland, which she held for 3 and ½ years and is now focusing on her work as a freelance designer and artist.

LEILA MARAUN – technical / production stage manager

Leila works as a freelance technician in the music and theatre industries touring throughout Australia, New Zealand and Europe. This work includes roles as *Production, Tour and Stage Manager* (The Kransky Sisters 2006-current; Fluff by Christine Johnston 2006-current; A-List Entertainment 2008-current): *Production Manager* (Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) 2005-current; Fox in the Snow 2011-current): *Production Assistant* (Queensland Ballet 2002-2008): *Stage Manager* (QPAC 2004-current; Strut & Fret 2005–2008; La Boite Theatre 2003–2006; Queensland Conservatorium of Music 1999–2008 and various programs in the Brisbane Festival & Queensland Music Festival): *Assistant Stage Manager* (QPAC 2005-current; Queensland Ballet 2001-2008; La Boite Theatre 2004): *Lighting Operator* (Pullenvale Environmental Education Centre (PEEC) 2002-2006; Queensland Ballet 2004; La Boite Theatre 2002): *Sound Designer* (Genre 2000-2001; green 2001): *Audio Operator/Backline* (East Coast Blues & Roots Festival 1998-current; PEEC 2002-2006; Logan Entertainment Centre 2004-2006; Queensland Conservatorium of Music 2000-2004).