



BRISBANE POWERHOUSE AND BRIAN LUCAS PRESENT

PERFORMANCE ANXIETY

TURBINE REHEARSAL ROOM, BRISBANE POWERHOUSE, 9-13 FEBRUARY 2010

The seeds of this piece were sown during the dying years of the Howard Government, at a time when we were continually being encouraged to feel anxious about everything – our personal safety, our country, our children, our future and our past. Despite the optimism that followed the end of that era (and the additional hope engendered by other significant events such as the Apology to the Stolen Generations and the election of Obama in the US) we still seem to exist within an environment of uncertainty, quiet unease and insidious anxiety.

In wanting to reflect this in *“Performance Anxiety”* (and in wanting to avoid the piece becoming a “thesis about a condition”), I have drawn on a quote by James Joyce – *“Within the particular is contained the Universal”*

As a result, I have created four very specific and particular characters, each of whom shares a sense of anxiety despite the substantial differences in their circumstances. I present to you *L’Amour*, the Torch Singer; *Limbo*, the War Correspondent; *Lunacy*, the Orator; and *Lachrymosa*, the Stand-Up Comedian. Each of these personas is given the opportunity to take the stage in the Loser Bar to share their stories and their experiences.

And in amongst them is a fifth character, another performer whose name begins with an “L” - a mid-career artist who finds that performance anxiety has somehow snuck up on him.....

I’m excited to be presenting this piece at Brisbane Powerhouse in the year of their 10th Birthday celebrations, as it was BPH that commissioned my first major solo piece (*“monster”*) in 2000. They have remained a significant supporter of my work throughout the ensuing decade.

I’ve also been incredibly lucky to be surrounded by such a strong and dynamic creative team – Brett, Andrew and Kieran – and I thank each of them for their support, energy and invaluable contributions to *“Performance Anxiety”*. Importantly, 2010 marks the twelfth year of my collaborative partnership with Brett, and I especially thank him for continuing to be such a central and important contributor to my creative practice. I’m also very indebted to Katherine Hoepper (at MAPS for Artists) for keeping my stress levels at a workable minimum.

It seems like a strange thing to say about a piece entitled *“Performance Anxiety”*, but sit back, relax and enjoy! Maybe a drink from the Loser Bar might help.....

Brian Lucas

CREDITS

- Created and Performed by **Brian Lucas**
- Sound Designer and Operator: **Brett Collery**
- Designer: **Kieran Swann**
- Lighting Designer and Operator: **Andrew Meadows**
- Producer: **Katherine Hoepper, MAPS for Artists**
- Production Manager: **Andrew Meadows**
- Poster and Flyer Design: **Oblong + Sons**
- Set Construction: **David Hay**
- Brisbane Powerhouse Producer: **Tanya-Hiroko Martin**
- Brisbane Powerhouse Production Coordinator: **Tony MacDonald**
- Brisbane Powerhouse Performance ASM: **Bec Li**

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Brian Lucas is supported by MAPS for Artists, a management and producing collaboration between Brisbane Powerhouse and Metro Arts.

Thanks to:

James Lees at Posterbill, Jenna Wall at Oblong Design, everyone at Brisbane Powerhouse, Fiona Cullen, Markwell Presents, Judith Wright Centre, Brisbane Cabaret Festival, Katrina Torenbeek, Louise Cullinan.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Brian Lucas – CREATOR AND PERFORMER

Brian Lucas is a Brisbane-based freelance director, choreographer, writer and performer. Trained in both acting and dance, he has worked with many of Australia's most well-known companies, including Chunky Move, KAGE Theatre, Queensland Theatre Company, La Boite Theatre, Dance North, Chamber Made Opera, Rock 'n' Roll Circus, Brink Visual Theatre, Finucane and Smith, Circa, Queensland Ballet, The Lyric Opera, and for 8 years with Expressions Dance Company (4 of those as Assistant Artistic Director). Brian has also achieved a national reputation for his solo physical performance pieces, and has demonstrated a track record for producing provocative, powerful and intelligent works which fully utilise his considerable skills in theatre and dance, while seamlessly merging the elements of both forms. He was a 2005 recipient of a prestigious two-year Australia Council Fellowship to reflect on and further refine his creative processes within the area of solo work. Most recently, Brian has collaborated with Moira Finucane and Jackie Smith on their new extravaganza entitled *The Carnival of Mysteries*, played with choreographer Michelle Heaven on a new duo piece entitled *Disagreeable Object*, dawdled with the *In The Deep End Arts* collective, performed at the Melbourne Festival with KAGE Theatre and collaborated with Phluxus Dance collective on the acclaimed piece *The Opposite of Prompt*. Brian is a member of the Dance Board of the Australia Council.

Brett Collery - SOUND DESIGNER

Brett Collery is a composer/sound designer working in theatre, film, performance, dance and multimedia events. He has composed for more than 20 Queensland Theatre Company productions including *Away*, *Toy Symphony*, *Anatomy Titus Fall of Rome*, *The August Moon*, *American Buffalo*, *Hamlet*, *Phaedra*, *The Tragedy of King Richard III* and *God is a DJ* to name a few. Other credits include *The Story of the Miracles at Cookie's Table* (Tokyo and Sydney), *Monster*, *The Book of Revelations*, *Underbelly* and *Performance Anxiety* (with Brian Lucas), *The Red Tree*, *Boat* and *Pianissimo* (OPAC), *Speaking in Tongues* (La Boite Theatre Company) plus myriad works with SBS Television, ABC Television, Kooemba Jdarra, Education Queensland, Southbank Corporation, Triple J, Brisbane Cabaret Festival and Queensland Pride Festival. Brett has received and been nominated for Helpmann Awards, 4MBS Awards, Matilda Awards and the Australian Screen Composer Awards and was recently awarded a Gold Matilda and a Green Room award for Sound Design.

Kieran Swann - DESIGNER

Kieran Swann is a designer and performance maker, and one half of performance making duo the Restaged Histories project, currently Artist in Residence at the Brisbane Powerhouse. Kieran was engaged in 2007 as the first designer under the emerging artist program by Queensland Theatre Company, for whom he has designed *Stones In His Pockets*, *I Am My Own Wife*, *The Estimator*, *Property of the Clan*, *Caucasian Chalk Circle* and taught workshops in design for theatre and performance for high school students. He has also worked as designer of *The Ghost Writer* (...and moor Theatre Company), *Deep Blue* (Creative Media Warehouse), *The Laramie Project* (Forward Movement/Springboard Theatre Company), *Iy Shambitt* and *the Sound Machine* (Backbone Youth Arts), *Sorority/Fraternity*, *Mad Forest* (NIDA Open Program), *Tashi Stories* (Imaginary Ltd), *The Physics Project*, *Beautiful* (OUT Postgraduate Program).

Andrew Meadows – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Andrew has worked as Lighting Designer for La Boite Theatre Company (*Long Gone Lonesome Cowgirls*, *Secret Bridesmaid's Business*, *Sex Diary of an Infidel*, *Away*, *X-Stacy*), Queensland Ballet, (*Dance Bait*, *The Sleeping Beauty*, *St Frances*) Opera Queensland (*The Creation*, *The Food of Love*), Access Arts (*Cabaret Erratica*), Grin and Tonic (*Macbeth*, *Seasons*, *Tale of Two Cities*) and Kooemba Jdarra Indigenous Performing Arts (*Black Shorts*, *Goin' to the Island*, *Binni's Back Yard*, *A Life of Grace*). He has also worked with The Brides of Frank and on the Woodford Folk Festival's *Millennium New Year's Day 2000 Fire Event*. Andrew has worked as a sound engineer and designer, production manager, as Head Electrician at Opera Queensland and as Lighting Systems on *Lion King* in Johannesburg 2007 and *LX* operator Taipei 2008. In 2009 Andrew toured nationally with Polytoxic Dance Theatre's *Teuila Postcard* as Lighting Designer and Production Manager.



BRISBANE POWERHOUSE

Brisbane Powerhouse is both a producer of contemporary arts and a multi-arts, dining and conference venue. Nestled on the beautiful banks of Brisbane River the former power station has become a distinct landmark, both as a stunning industrial creation and as a hub for everything creative.

Entering its tenth year, Brisbane Powerhouse aspires to enrich the lives of the people of Brisbane through the production and presentation of quality performing and visual arts, cementing Brisbane's reputation as a city that values art and artists.

Director Andrew Ross, Chief Operating Officer: Noeline Galloway

Board of Directors: Alison Quinn (Chair), Andy Arthurs, Richard Barker, Anna Marsden, Dan Morgan, Justin O'Neill, Matthew Hill, Peta Ashworth, Dianne Quinn (Company Secretary)

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