

EYE MUSIC – Adventurous Accessible Music Theatre

The Tutti Production **EYE MUSIC** is an inspirational piece of music theatre about Jem Hartgen who accessed the services of Novita for many years, and who was also a member of the Tutti Performing Arts Program and the renowned Tutti Choir.

As a child Jem loved the Muppets, Scooby Doo, AFL, chocolate doughnuts and iced coffee. He learnt to read before he was five year's old. Even as a child he was more concerned about not being able to communicate than not being able to walk.

Jem cared deeply about the struggles of people close to him. He was particularly passionate about the rights of disabled people. Issues such as access to specialised equipment, support services and the right to refuse interventions which kept them alive when they'd had enough, were very important to Jem. He also cared greatly about a range of social and political issues.

Jem's eyes were his only method of communication and the **EYE MUSIC** title reflects this. His only reliable forms of communication were the 500 symbols on his 'Bliss board' and his 'Liberator' communication device.

As he said: "Without the Bliss board no-one would have known I had a brain. I would have been treated like an eternal baby."

In Jem's own words: "Despite the many challenges, I have a full and wonderful life. I have managed to do many things that others only dreamed of including travelling to Disneyland and visiting the United Kingdom on three occasions."

After completing his SACE Certificate in 1999 he joined the 'Up The Hill' program of Flinders University where he undertook Disability Studies. In the same year he received the Crippled Children's Association's **Somerton Women's Auxiliary's Achievement Award** for recognition of the highest achievements of a secondary school student.

EYE MUSIC will take audiences into a confrontational world without speech or movement. The clever use of projections and music will show audiences what is to live with sharp awareness and intelligence within a profoundly disabled body.

The amazing projections used in this work feel natural and they allow us to explore Jem's ideas in a non-literal way that does justice to his imagination. They gradually reveal the decisions he faced around power, money, sex and religion, and ultimately, life and death.

EYE MUSIC coincides with Novita's 75th Anniversary and to celebrate Tutti is making a very special offer available just for Novita clients and families:

To Book visit www.trybooking.com/EJMF and use promotion codes below.

Adults \$20 (normally \$25) Use Promotion Code **Novita**

Concession \$15 (normally \$20) Use Promotion Code **Novitacon**

Enquiries: Tutti Arts 8422 6511