



## DREAMBIG CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL AND TUTTI ARTS PRESENTS

# FROZEN GIRL

### DIRECTOR'S NOTE

All of us remember that time in early adolescence when having a best friend is everything. Similarly, every parent knows that one day the little child they are close to will grow and begin to separate from them. But what happens when a child separates so completely that even when with you they are unable to communicate or move.

Frozen Girl is Kathryn Evans story, first told in 2014 during storytelling workshops, when she revealed that between the ages of 11 and 13 she did not speak or move. Kathryn's story and the way she told it with her small intricate facial expressions and her unhurried physicality was so powerful that I and members of the ensemble wanted to explore it further with her.

The process of devising and developing this work with Kathryn and the ensemble with Julian Jaensch, Pat Rix, and support worker Annalise Donders has been deeply collaborative. In early 2016 we were joined by writer Emily Steel and designer Mawarini who worked with us on the realisation of the script and visual storytelling for Frozen Girl. More recently Sascha Budimski and Nic Mollison created sound and lighting to enhance this work which traverses the realms of fairy tale, memory and imagination to reveal Kathryn's emotional experience.

Medicine appears to find no organic cause for Conversion Disorder aka Frozen Syndrome, rather it is thought to be triggered by emotional distress or trauma. For Kathryn this was the loss of her only friend, and her fear of loneliness. Frozen Girl tells us that no matter how isolated or separate we feel, there is always hope and a time to reconnect.

Juha Vanhakartano

### WRITERS' NOTES

If we're going to talk about the writing of *Frozen Girl*, here are some things you should know:

That beautiful monologue the Brother has? That was improvised in rehearsal, one version by Joel and another by Lorcan, while I frantically scribbled them down.

The funny, surprising narrators? Juha invented them and suggested the things they might talk about, then I riffed on his ideas.

The wonderful thoughts that the doctors have about how to cure Kathryn? The cast sat round the lunch table and came up with those.

I could go on, but you get the point. The script has been very much a collaboration, starting with the real-life story from Kathryn and her family, and developing over months and months of workshops and rehearsals with Juha and the company. So much of the storytelling isn't spoken - it's in movement, images, sound - and most of my job has been trying to capture what was going on in the room and get it down on the page in something resembling the right order.

One of my favourite improvised lines - "Lucky ducky" - didn't make it into the final script.

So I'll borrow it and use it here. I feel quite the lucky ducky to have been part of *Frozen Girl*. Thank you, everyone.

Emily Steel.

## **FROZEN GIRL CREATIVE TEAM**

Director - Juha Vanhakartano

Assistant Director - Julian Jaensch

Devisors - Juha Vanhakartano, Julian Jaensch, Pat Rix with Kathryn Evans and ensemble

Support Worker - Annalise Donders

Writers - Emily Steel with Kathryn Evans and ensemble

Set and costume designer - Mawarini

Lighting designer - Nic Mollison

Sound designer - Sascha Budimski

Dramaturg - Pat Rix

## **FROZEN GIRL CREW**

Stage Manager – Helen Bock

Makeup/dresser - Lee Witczak

Tech – Sarah Randall, Maddy Gibbons

Volunteers - Pip Wayte

## **TUTTI PRODUCTION TEAM**

Pat Rix – Artistic Director/CEO/Producer

Arts Manager/Producer – Jane Gronow

Disability & Quality Manager – Dorothy O'Brien

Arts/office Administrator – Belinda Warnes

Finance Administrator – Jackie Smith

## **FROZEN GIRL CAST LIST**

### **FIRST CAST**

Kathryn	Kathryn Evans
Mum	Trish Ferguson
Dad	Matthew Leigh-Tamblyn
Brother	Joel Hartgen
Friend	Jane Hewitt
4 doctors:	Joel Hartgen, Lorcan Hopper, Bradley Eckert, James Kurtze
5 small screens:	Joel Hartgen, Trish Ferguson, Bradley Eckert, Matthew Leigh -Tamblyn, James Kurtze
3 Big screens:	First part: Annalise Donders , Lorcan Hopper , Josh Campton Second part: Annalise Donders, Josh Campton, Jane Hewitt
Backstage	Roy Stewart
Foyer Guides	Dougie Jacobbsen, Natalie Papandrea

### **SECOND CAST**

Kathryn	Kathryn Evans
Mum	Jenna May
Dad	Bradley Eckert
Brother	Lorcan Hopper
Friend	Caitlin Moloney
4 doctors:	Joel Hartgen, Lorcan Hopper, Bradley Eckert, James Kurtze
5 small screens:	Joel Hartgen, Bradely Eckert, Lorcan Hopper, Jesse Cahill, James Kurtze
3 big screens:	First part: Annalise Donders, Matthew Leigh-Tamblyn, Josh Campton Second part: Annalise Donders, Josh Campton, Caitlin Moloney
Foyer Guides	Dougie Jacobbsen, Natalie Papandrea
Backstage	Roy Stewart