

# WILBUR THE OPTICAL WHALE

BY KAREN LEE ROBERTS



**2022**



indelabilityarts

## PRESENTER PACK

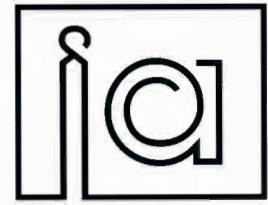
# COMPANY PROFILE



## INDELABILITYARTS:

**indelabilityarts** is an inclusive theatre company that provides professional artistic and training opportunities for artists and community members who identify as having a disability. Our professional ensemble creates original work that communicates the lived experience of each artist across a range of performance modes to challenge the perceptions of audiences and industry alike. We further nurture the social, personal, physical and mental wellbeing of participants through our workshop series that offers ongoing skills development and training for community members with a passion and interest in the performing arts. Through our inclusive practice, we aim to foster acceptance and understanding for those who usually feel marginalised, discriminated against, or excluded from arts practice so that they can access and make work that both reflects their experience and caters to their needs.

# ABOUT THE SHOW



indelabilityarts

## SHOW SYNOPSIS

*Wilbur and Cecil are BFF's. They are inseparable... or are they?*

One day, while playing hide and seaweed, Wilbur and Cecil are set upon by the Starfish Meanie Gang!

How do they get out of this one?

Join Wilbur and Cecil and help them on their quest!

***Wilbur the Optical Whale* is a tale about friendship, acceptance and celebrating difference.**

Set in an exquisitely crafted underwater world full of stunning circus tricks, digital and visual imagery, music, and interactive play, *Wilbur the Optical Whale* is an immersive, interactive accessible performance for children aged 3-8 years.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

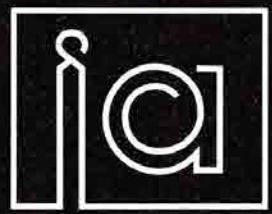
indelabilityarts is supported by the QLD government through Arts QLD & the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, Brisbane City Council Creative Sparks grant, Flipside Circus & NDIA and Civic Solutions.



## GENRE

Children's/Family  
Drama  
Interdisciplinary  
Music Theatre  
Physical Theatre  
Circus  
Visual Theatre





indelabilityarts

# CREATIVES

**DIRECTOR: Catarina Hebbard**

**WRITER: Karen Lee Roberts**

**SET & COSTUMES: Chancie Jessop &  
Jessica Hansen**

**AV DESIGN: Lee Evans**

**COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGNER: Phil Hagstrom**

**DRAMATURG: Elise Greig**

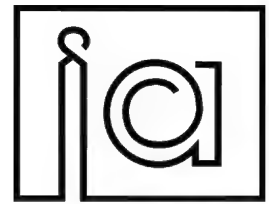
**PHYSICAL THEATRE PERFORMANCE: Clint Bolster**

**AUSLAN INTERPRETER: Leanne Beer**

**TECHNICAL MANAGER: Jeremy Gordon**

**PERFORMERS: Joel Lago, Rebecca Alexander,  
Alexandra Ellen, Michel Labosse, David Waldie,  
Karen Lee Roberts, Davy Sampford, Kelsey Adams**

# BIOGRAPHIES



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**CATARINA  
HEBBARD:  
DIRECTOR**

**Catarina** holds both Arts (Acting) and Education degrees from QUT and Griffith respectively and has worked in Brisbane as a freelance director, actor, voice-over artist, mentor and teacher for over 20 years. As a Director, her most recent credits include: Anatomy of a Suicide (BC Production and Metro Arts), Diving for Pearls (QT online Play Club), Children of the Sun (QUT), Poison (EG & Metro Arts), Spike Heels (QUT), the award winning Wilbur the Optical Whale and Look Mum...No Hands!!! and Love Me; (co-director **indelabilityarts**), Bumpy Angels and DNA (The Arts Centre Gold Coast), Dolores (Anywhere Theatre Festival), Head Full of Love (Re-mount & National Tour 2015 QT/C), The Pitch & Eight (QT/C), Medea Redux: Awkward Conversations (Daniel Evans & Metro Arts), Machina (La Boite Indie), Company and The Boy From Oz (Ignatians Musical Society), The Laramie Project (QUT), Last Drinks (Short and Sweet 2013), Un-PC, Nobody Does it Like Me and Hardly the Portrait of a Lady (NDILM Productions), Catholic School Girls (co-production with Three Sisters) and Minefields and Miniskirts (MadCat Creative connections). As an Actor she has worked with companies including, La Boite, QT, 23rd Productions, KITE, Harvest Rain, Emerge, Crossbow, Mixed Company, Starlight Theatre Co-op, That Production Company, Theatre Anyplace & the Forward Movement. Her film and TV Credits include Girl Clock, the Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader, Reef'n'Beef, the Down under Mystery Tour & K9 & is the voice of Sally in Sally and Possum. Catarina is an alumnus of the Women Directors' Program, Melbourne Theatre Company (2015), was Creative Associate at QT(C) (2011) and is the Co-Artistic Director & Co-Founder of **indelabilityarts** & BC Productions Qld.

**Karen** has performed extensively in Australia the United Kingdom, Malaysia and the USA. She has performed solo and with indelabilityarts Theatre Company at various locations including the Brisbane Powerhouse, LA Boite Theatre, QTC, RPAC and in the Anywhere Theatre Festival and The Adelaide Fringe Festival, where in 2020 her show Wilbur the Optical Whale won two awards. She performed with Restless Theatre Company at the Bleach Festival for the Commonwealth Games. This show won a Helpmann Award. Her cabaret Chameleon has also played at the Adelaide Fringe and The Butterfly Club in Melbourne.



**KAREN LEE ROBERTS:  
WRITER/  
PERFORMER**



**JOEL LAGO:  
WILBUR**

From humble beginnings as “Plum Pudding” – a nuanced performance his mother described as “Spectacular” – **Joel** has always had a love for performance. This love has afforded him incredible opportunities, from acting in many Community Theatre productions in Brisbane to nabbing the role of “Young Volunteer” in the upcoming TV Show, “Joe vs. Carole” where he was required to hand a cup of coffee to Kate McKinnon. It was, in all honesty, the best day of his life. Joel is curious in the ways that performance has the power to change perceptions of what is perceived to be a “normal” body, and the ways that performance invites an audience into the lives of people who are rarely given a platform. Joel is incredibly honoured to understudy for the role of Wilbur and to help **indelabilityarts** bring this story to life.

**Rebecca** is Co-artistic Director and co-founder of **indelabilityarts**. She holds both Acting (USQ) and Education degrees and currently works as an actor, workshop facilitator, producer and director. As a director, Rebecca’s major theatre credits include Look Mum... No Hands!!! (**indelabilityarts**; Co- Director) & Love me;, Rebecca was also co-artistic director and actor of award winning ThreeSisters productions (Bronte & Catholic School Girls). After living in the UK and immersing herself in a variety of diverse theatre practices Rebecca returned to Brisbane and spent a year touring for Shake & Stir Theatre Company performing works such as Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Statespeare, Tragic Magic, Bard to the Bone, Popular, Say it to my Facebook, Hamlet (2013) and has worked with Queensland Theatre Company as a workshop artist and performed and toured with Debase Productions in 2009 with their show Snagged. Other theatre credits include working with La Boite Theatre Company (Summer Wonderland) nominated for a Matilda award, Debase Productions, 4MBS Classic FM (Much Ado About Nothing), QLD Arts Council (Sensational Harry, Idotluddotu) and Cement Box Theatre. Rebecca has also been involved with numerous creative developments and play readings throughout Brisbane. Rebecca's film credits include A Hood in the Woods and Leader of the Pack.



**REBECCA  
ALEXANDER:  
CECIL**





**ALEXANDRA  
ELLEN:  
BIG K**

**Alexandra** Ellen is a Brisbane based emerging artist, actor, writer and visual artist. She takes a multidisciplinary approach to her artistic practice which crosses form.

Alexandra is a member of **indelability**arts professional ensemble and Access Arts visual arts program. She grew up in the theatre, participating in classes, workshops and performances throughout her schooling. In 2011-2012 she taught children and teenagers drama classes which included writing, directing and producing shows. In 2014 she was in *Cash on Delivery* (Ballina Players) and *Remnants* (Director, John Senczuk) in 2015. In 2017 she joined **indelability**arts ensemble where she was part of the creative development of *Love Me*; and *Wilbur The Optical Whale*, which had an award-winning season at Adelaide Fringe, 2020. She was also part of the Queensland Governments All Abilities: Everybody had a Role to Play video campaign. In 2020 she has attended Back to Back Theatre's CAMP as well as being part of Creative Alliance's artist development program, *Must Go On...* led by Liz Burcham and Margi Brown Ash.

Alexandra's visual arts practice can be described as expressive and intuitive. She leans towards mixed media, experimenting with materials and technique, and has contributed to many collaborative exhibitions and curated her first solo exhibition, 'Outside, Inside' in 2019.

**David** is a singer, dancer and actor who enjoys playing comedy and writing his own songs. David believes in equality and acceptance – he wants to be seen as a performer in his own right regardless of his disability. David sings with the Voicebox Choir. He has trained with Backbone Youth Arts and is part of the Light Ensemble, appearing in performances for 2High Festival, Undercover Artist Festival at QTC and numerous other presentations as part of the ensemble. David attended CAMP Geelong in 2015 with Back to Back Theatre. In 2015, as part of Bust-a-Move Dance he performed at the opening of the Special Olympics in Los Angeles. David wants to be as famous as Hugh Jackman and his favourite artists are Delta Goodrem, Ricky Martin and Jessica Mauboy.



**DAVID  
WALDIE:  
BARRA**



**MICHEL  
LABOSSE:  
OG**

**Michel** is an emerging performer. He was a participant in the University of Queensland reference committee three-year study, Constructing Futures: An ARC Linkage Project investigating how young adults with intellectual disability and their parents plan for the future.

In 2017 Michel was honoured to speak at QLD's Parliament Building at the launch of All Abilities Queensland: Opportunities For All State Disability Plan 2017–2020, also performing in the QLD government's online web and social media campaign about people living with disability.

Michel began training at Backbone Youth Arts and as part of an ensemble performed in various productions between 2012–2014. He was interviewed for Theatre gives insight into life unseen (612 ABC Brisbane Jessica Hinchliffe Oct 2014) and he has attended various workshops with Kimberley Twiner, Anna Yen and BACK-TO-BACK Theatre Geelong.

Since 2015 he has been working hard creating and performing with **indelability**arts on Look Mum...No Hands!!! and Love Me ;. He has appeared in numerous presentations of both shows but thinks the highlight to date would have to be touring with the company to perform at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in February 2018. He is noted for his jokes and looks forward to more touring!

**Kelsey** was a competitive artistic gymnast, performing with her troupe from Splitz Gym at the World Gymnaestrada in Austria in 2007, as well as coaching gymnastics at the Western Districts Youth Club and Pep Gymnastics. She made the transition to circus in 2013, learning and soon teaching flying trapeze with Circus Arts Brisbane. Kelsey travelled to the US to teach flying trapeze in 2015. As an aerial artist, Kelsey has performed at the Carnivale Ball, the June Cabaret at the Little Tivoli (2016) and the Quiver Cabaret in Brisbane Powerhouse's MELT Festival (2017).



**KELSEY ADAMS:  
STEVE**

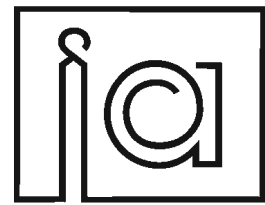


**DAVY SAMPFORD:  
POINTY JEFF (PJ)**

Passionate juggler and circus instructor **Davy** has over 25 years of experience as an independent artist and director. A founding member of two very successful Brisbane companies, Circa and Briefs, he has also worked for Circus OZ and Circus Monoxide.



# PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS



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## TOURING AVAILABILITY

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2022 TO 2024

## DURATION

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60 MINS | NO INTERVAL

## SUITABLE VENUES

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Any venue where the audience can be seated on the same level as the performers.

This show works particularly well in black box venues where seating can be retracted.

## MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK

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2 shows/per day

Up to 8 shows per week

## MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES

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1 hour

## LICENCING AGREEMENTS

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Not applicable

## APRA OBLIGATIONS

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Not applicable

## TOURING PERSONNEL

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**Director:** Catarina Hebbard

**Writer/Performer:** Karen Lee Roberts

**Performers:** Joel Lago, Rebecca Alexander, Alexandra Ellen, David Waldie, Michel Labosse, Kelsey Adams, Davy Sampford, Cienda McNamara

**Technical Manager:** Jeremy Gordon

**Costumes:** Jessica Hansen

# PERFORMANCE HISTORY



2022 PIP THEATRE  
2022 BAYSIDE MUSIC HALL – WYNNUM FRINGE  
2022 KINGSTON BUTTER FACTORY  
2022 IPSWICH CIVIC CENTRE  
2022 TOWNSVILLE CIVIC THEATRE  
2022 MORANBAH STATE SCHOOL HALL  
2022 MONCRIEFF ENTERTAINMENT CENTER  
2022 HOPGOOD THEATRE – ADELAIDE FRINGE  
2021 METRO ARTS – BRISBANE FESTIVAL  
2021 REDLAND PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE  
2021 NORTH QUEENSLAND TOUR  
2021 HOME OF THE ARTS  
2020 ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE  
2019 JUDITH WRIGHT ARTS CENTRE



## AWARDS



MATILDA AWARDS

2022 Best Independent  
Production

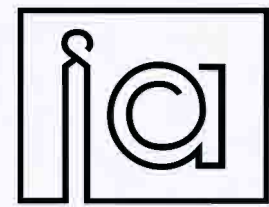


2020  
Access Award



Innovation  
Award

# TARGET AUDIENCE



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*Wilbur the Optical Whale* is suitable for all ages, specifically children aged 3-8 years old and their families. We aim to target schools, disability services and playgroups as well as the general public.

## AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

### UNDERWATER SEA-SQUAD WORKSHOP

Children will create an underwater sea creature using a variety of visual art methods, textures and colours while exploring themes of kindness, empathy and celebrating difference. These artworks will be photographed and incorporated into the performance, bringing children into the creation of *Wilbur the Optical Whale's* magical underwater world.

## TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Anyone attending the show is welcome to participate in the workshop. It is recommended for children aged 3-8 years old.

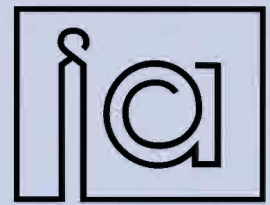
Length: 60mins / pre show (day before performance).

All materials are provided



# MARKETING

## MARKETING COPY



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### ONE-LINE

***Wilbur the Optical Whale* is a 'tail' about friendship, acceptance and celebrating difference.**

### SHORT

**In a 'tail' about celebrating difference through friendship, audiences are transported to an exquisitely crafted underwater world full of fun interactive play, stunning circus tricks, digital and visual imagery, and lively music. *Wilbur the Optical Whale* is an accessible delight sure to enchant everyone aged 3+.**

### EXTENDED

**Come on an oceanic adventure and take a deep-sea sensory dive to meet Wilbur and his cheeky friends!**

**Set in an exquisitely crafted underwater world full of stunning circus tricks, digital and visual imagery, music, and interactive play, *Wilbur the Optical Whale* is an immersive, interactive accessible performance for children aged 3+.**

**All of indelabilityarts' shows feature integrated Auslan and headphones are available so audience members can engage on their own terms. The set includes a quiet space as part of relaxed performance mode catering to those who may require it.**

# MARKETING SUMMARY



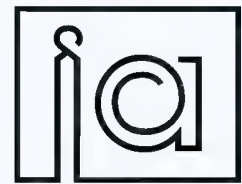
*Wilbur the Optical Whale* is designed to be a delight for all ages. The show can be marketed to a variety of sources to engage families, schools and the disability community.

For our public performances we have used our social media platforms to share images, videos and reviews. In addition, we contact local radio stations and news outlets for publicity.

Schools, disability services, playgroups and children-oriented business (playgroups, playcentres etc.) have been a valuable source of advertising for the show.

**We make it clear in our messaging that *Wilbur the Optical Whale* is accessible for all audiences.**

# QUOTES & REVIEWS



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## KIDS IN ADELAIDE - ★★★★★

***This just might be the most heartwarming show you'll see all year!***

If you have little kids aged anywhere from 2-6 years old, be sure to take them to this delightful show, presented by **indelabilityarts**.

It is an immersive experience, with the narrator taking the time to chat with audience members prior to the show to explain that the show is Auslan interpreted, that everyone can make themselves comfortable on the stage on beanbags, cushions, rugs & even inflatable sea-creatures! Tents are set up on the side of the stage for anyone who wishes to take some time out or relax. Being on the stage with the performers feels just a little bit magical & makes it easy for the kids to join in with the games that *Wilbur The Optical Whale* loves to play such 'hide & seaweed' & 'foamball'.

The story is one of friendship, celebrating differences, learning to say sorry & taking time to play. As Wilbur & best friend Cecil The Shark look back over their friendship & learn to stand up to the Starfish Meanie Gang together, you will find yourself smiling to yourself that there is still good in the world & that the crew at indelabilityarts have made it their mission to make sure everyone is included & accepted for who they are.

Beautiful digital imagery surrounding the stage, along with silks & a vibrant blue ocean floor ties the show together in a sensory delight for adults & kids alike. After the show, the cast took time to meet the kids, show them the set & costumes & chat about their favourite parts of the show. This is a group of truly passionate & talented people who have created a very special experience.

**"You have all created such a genuine sense of belonging...Thank you for sharing this beautiful show with the world!"**

**AMY ON FACEBOOK**

**"The students were enthralled with the performance!"**

**BUNDABERG CENTRAL STATE SCHOOL**

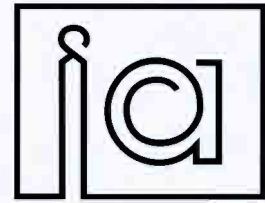
**"Our Year 1 students had an amazing time at the Civic Theatre today seeing the show *Wilbur the Optical Whale* and learning about difference."**

**BLUEWATER STATE SCHOOL**





# IMAGE & VIDEO LINKS



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## VIDEO LINKS



Trailer: <https://youtu.be/O7LxU0A1suQ>

Vox Pop: <https://youtu.be/LNvAYTJuvbE>

Videos can be downloaded...[HERE!](#)

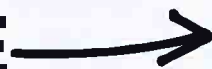
## IMAGES



Photograph credits: Nick Morrissey

A collection of high-res images are  
available to download...[HERE!](#)

## WEBSITE



<https://www.indelabilityarts.com/>

*CONTENT WARNINGS - NONE*

**COMPANY LOGOS -**

**[LINK HERE!](#)**

**ARTWORK -**

**[LINK HERE!](#)**

**POSTER AND FLYERS -**

**[LINK HERE!](#)**

**MEDIA RELEASE TEMPLATE -**

**[LINK HERE!](#)**



# PRODUCTION DETAILS



## EXAMPLE BUMP-IN SCHEDULE

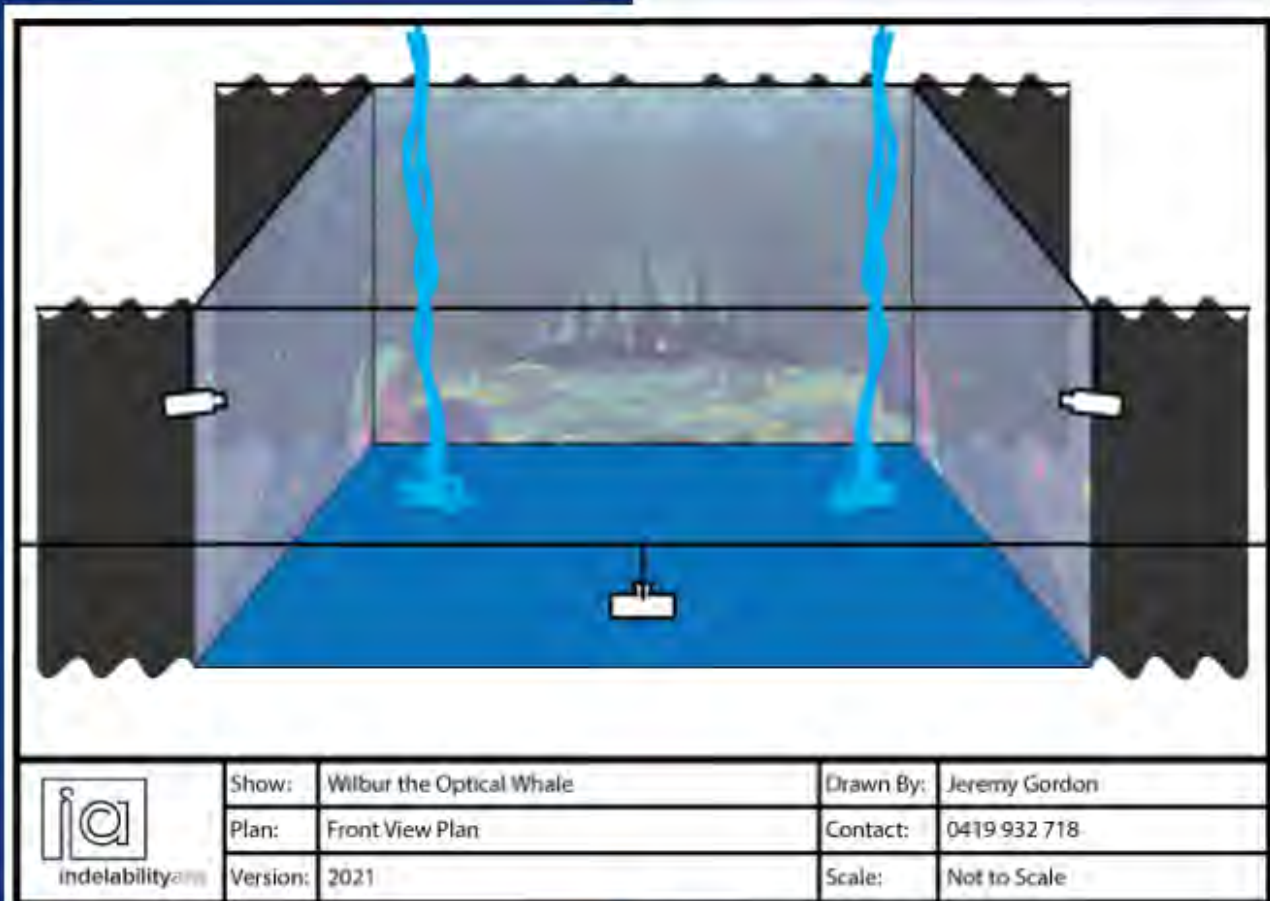
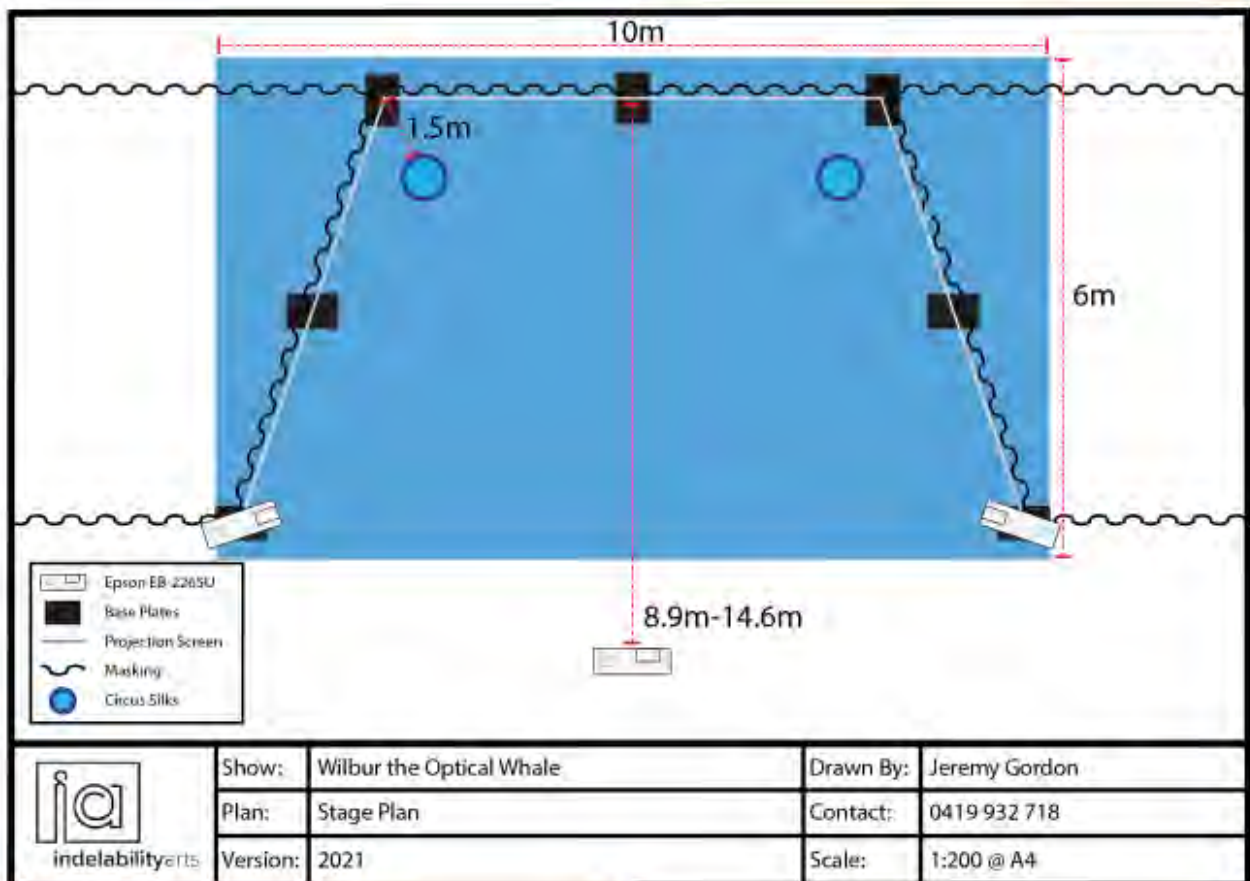
This is an example schedule based on the following facts and assumptions:

- The Venue has either done a pre-rig, or we are using their standard LX rig.
- We have a one day bump-in (the time below is the minimum required for a full setup).
- We have a two show day (this is the usual).

TIME	INTENTION
<hr/>	
<b>9.00am</b>	Bump-in SET/AV/SX
<b>12.00pm</b>	Lunch
<b>1:00pm</b>	Tech rehearsal, Program LX
<b>4.00pm</b>	Finish



# STAGE PLANS





# STAGE

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## INDELABILITYARTS TO SUPPLY

- 10m wide by 6m deep circus flooring.  
This area is referred to as the performance space.
- 3x 6m wide by 4m tall fabric sheets to be used as projection surfaces.
- Extendable boom poles with baseplates and crossbars for the purpose of setting up the projection surfaces.
- 2x circus silks to be rigged on anchor points above the performance space. If there are no rated anchor points available, the silks can be rigged anywhere but will not be used for circus tricks.
- A certified rigger to rig the silks.
- Cushions, blankets and various toys for audience to sit on and use in the audience space

## VENUE TO SUPPLY

- Access to rigging points at the appropriate locations. The location of the performance space is determined by available rigging points.
- Clear floor downstage of performance space for audience.  
This area is referred to as the audience space.
- Seats set in a semi-circle at the back of the audience space for audience to use if needed.

# LIGHTING

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## VENUE TO SUPPLY

- Open white face light focused to the performance area.
- LED colour wash focused to performance area.
- LED moving lights are not required, but preferred if available for use in the audience area to create an 'underwater feel'.
- Lights with UV functionality.
- Note that if the Venue is unable to supply or source any lights with UV functionality, please inform the Technical Manager as soon as possible as it is required for a part of the show.

### PLEASE TAKE CARE TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Caution must be taken when focussing to avoid as much spill onto the projection screens as possible. If it is unavoidable, spill onto the side screens is preferred over the centre, as in; face light may need to come from the side rather than straight on, or from a steeper angle.
- Take particular caution to ensure that lighting fixtures are not positioned in places where they will be caught in projector shots. If all lighting bars are above 4m, they should be safe.
- A list of lighting states is noted below which will be programmed before the technical rehearsal. Though; should time permit, an LX op is welcome to prepare these ahead of time.
- As noted earlier, an LX op is not required for the show as operating will be done by the Stage Manager.

# SOUND

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## INDELABILITYARTS TO SUPPLY

- 1x MacBook Pro to play audio and vision from Qlab, to be setup near the lighting console.

## VENUE TO SUPPLY

- Standard speaker setup including L&R speakers and sub (if available) appropriate for the audience space.
- - 4x Radio Headsets, packs and belts of varying sizes for performers.
- - 1x Stereo DI with 3.5mm jack for Qlab playback.

# WARDROBE

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We supply our own costumes.

## VENUE TO SUPPLY

- 2x accessible dressing rooms close to the performance space. If the dressing rooms are not accessible or not within a reasonable distance, temporary dressing rooms must be setup upstage of the performance space behind the masking. These temporary dressing rooms should include:
  - 1x private area for 5x performers, in which chairs and tables for each are required.
  - 1x private area for 4x performers, in which chairs and tables for each are required.
  - Each dressing room area must have access to at least 1x standing mirror and 1x clothes rack as well as adequate lighting.

# AV

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## INDELABILITYARTS TO SUPPLY

- 3x Epson EB-2265U projectors which must be rigged 8.9m-14.6m away from their projection surface (closer is preferred for maximum brightness, but consistency of distances should be prioritised.)
- 3x HDBT transmitters
- 3x 30m Cat5 cables
- 3x HDMI cables

## PLEASE TAKE CARE TO NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- Should the venue have a projector capable of filling the centre projection screen (6m wide x 4m high) already setup in a standard position, it is possible to use this instead to save time during bump in. It is okay for the centre projector to be a different model to the two side projectors.
- Should the venue have HDBT transmitters of their own, they are welcome to set them up at the appropriate projector positions before company arrival, to save time during bump in.
- If the distance from the projectors to ops position is greater than 30m, the venue must provide the equipment necessary to get data from the touring Qlab MacBook to the projectors (either by providing longer Cat5 cables, or access to venue hard patching systems).

## CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE

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### INDELABILITYARTS WILL PROVIDE:

1x Stage Manager to operate SX, AV, LX and call microphone cues.

### VENUE TO PROVIDE:

- 1x Audio Tech for whole season; to assist with microphone management.
- 1x Lighting Tech for bump in and rehearsal only; to help program lights.
- 1x Video Tech for bump in only; to help with setup of projectors. Alternatively, this role can be fulfilled by the Audio or Lighting Tech if they are multitasked.

## FREIGHT NOTES

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If we are arriving by van, we would need access to a loading dock to unload the sound and lighting equipment and set, ideally but we are able to lift if need be depending on the venue.

## CRITICAL ISSUES

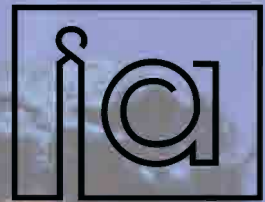
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Complete black out is ideal as we do have a blue light effect in the show, but we are able to adapt if this is not possible.





# COSTS



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In regards to costing, please chat to us as we have received some funding that may be able to subsidise this cost for you.

## PER SHOW

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\$5500 per performance – 2 performances in one day \$10,000

## PER WEEK

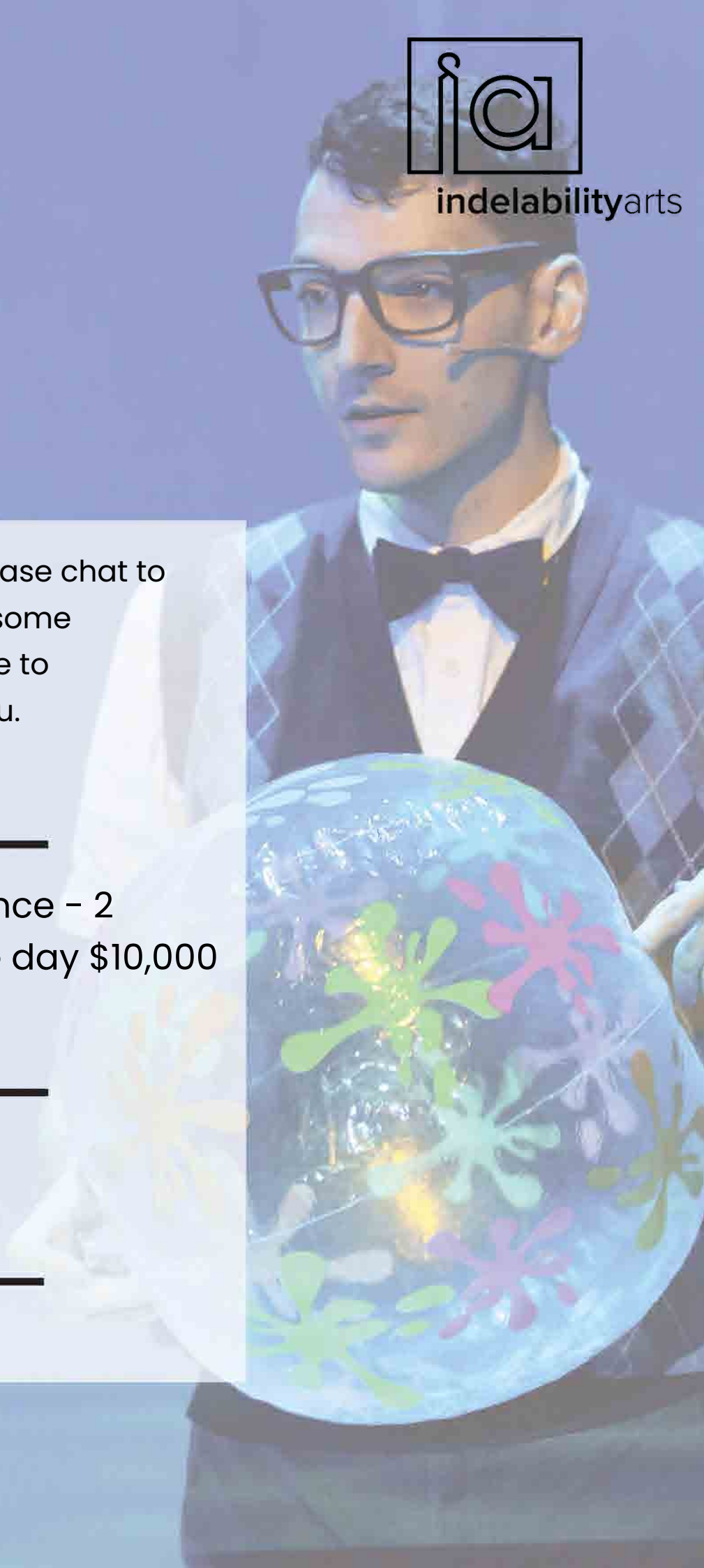
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\$17,000

## REMOUNT

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\$3000



# CONTACTS



## CATARINA HEBBARD

(Producer, programming, publicity)



0418 719 618



catarina@indelabilityarts.com

## REBECCA ALEXANDER

(Producer, programming, publicity)



0437 447 785



rebecca@indelabilityarts.com

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## LAURA BAMFORD

(Producer)



0478 897 823



producer@indelabilityarts.com

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## GEORGINA BULLOCK

(Marketing)



0450 155 600



programs@indelabilityarts.com