



CERITA ANAK

POLYGLOT THEATRE

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN PREMIERE

The Show

Cerita Anak (Child's Story) takes pre-school children and their adults on a sea journey never to be forgotten. Climb aboard and be rocked and rolled across a strange ocean, dive to the bottom of the sea, hear stories on the wind and in the currents of the water and face great danger before coming to safe harbour. Cerita Anak (Child's Story) draws its inspiration from the seafaring history in Java and the true tale of arrival in Australia told by a small boy. Combining puppetry, song, shadow imagery and sound, the show bustles with all the life of the ocean. Audience members, both young and old, are passengers and storytellers on this exquisite adventure, created by Melbourne's Polyglot Theatre and Indonesia's Papermoon Puppet Theatre.

Cerita Anak (Child's Story) embraces a new audience for Polyglot. Children aged 2 - 7 have a distinctive approach to imaginative play, imbuing the world around them with character. They are at a stage of loving the connection with their adults as well as testing out their independent action. The dual roles of child and adult in this piece are vital. After two creative processes in Indonesia, Cerita Anak (Child's Story) had its final stage of development at ArtPlay in Melbourne in 2016, before its world premiere season at Arts Centre Melbourne in April 2017, as part of the inaugural Asia TOPA. Polyglot and collaborating partner Papermoon Puppet Theatre devised the work, along with children from the villages of Lasem and Kepek, and Dinjerra Primary School in Melbourne.

The development of Cerita Anak (Child's Story) was supported by the Commonwealth through the Australia-Indonesia Institute of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Victorian Government through Creative Victoria, City of

Melbourne through ArtPlay's New Ideas Lab, Arts Centre Melbourne, Playking Foundation, Creative Partnerships Australia and Polyglot's generous donors.

How It Works

Cerita Anak (Child's Story) is an interactive, participatory theatrical production for children and adults as equals in the experience. Both audience and performers are 'on-stage' and active throughout the performance. The performers are three crew members who are the guides throughout the work. The audience starts in an adjoining room where they are asked to set aside their prams, bags and remove their shoes and socks. The performers invite the audience of children and adults to make an underwater creature using materials supplied by Polyglot. The performance experience is placed within the set elements, with audience participants roaming around the space, becoming the passengers on the sea journey, guided by the performers about where to be and what to do. The performance ends with the performers waving goodbye to everyone and doors to the adjoining room opening, inviting the audience to depart.

Cerita Anak (Child's Story) is designed for children aged 2 – 7 and their adults.

Cerita Anak (Child's Story) was nominated for the 2017 Helpmann Award - Best Presentation for Children

Company biography

Polyglot Theatre places children at the heart of our art. Our vision is of a future where children are powerful: artistically, socially and culturally. Polyglot Theatre is Australia's leading creator of interactive and participatory theatre for children and families. Our distinctive artistic philosophy has placed us at the international forefront of contemporary arts experiences for babies and children up to 12 years, meeting with professional acclaim and recognition around the world. Inspired by the artwork, play and ideas of children, we create imagined worlds where audiences actively participate in performance through touch, play and encounter. At Polyglot we approach our work for and with children with curiosity, attention and respect. We know that as agents for cultural change, children can influence perceptions of place, space and art making. Our works show the power and capability of the child to an adult audience. With our child-centred focus, we generate contemporary, engaging theatre experiences that take us into unexpected artistic territory. We use simple materials to encourage creative confidence and participation. We take over public spaces and create transformational worlds and we travel far and wide.

Website: <http://www.polyglot.org.au>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/P0lygl0tTheatre/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/PolyglotTheatre>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/PolyglotTheatre/>

Videos: <https://youtu.be/CWu-vlXyK5M>; <https://www.youtube.com/polyglotpuppets>

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Perth International Arts Festival

Founded in 1953 by The University of Western Australia, the Perth International Arts Festival is the longest running international arts festival in Australia and Western Australia's premier cultural event. The Festival has developed a worldwide reputation for excellence in its international program, the presentation of new works and the highest quality artistic experiences for its audience. For 65 years the Festival has welcomed to Perth some of the world's greatest living artists and now connects with over 700,000 people each year.

Wendy Martin is the Artistic Director 2016 – 19.

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