

Access and Inclusion Plan The Lost Balloon



Overview

The Lost Balloon is a warm, joyful, and inclusive work created by Clint Bolster, a physical theatre and mask performance that uses full-face masks, movement, visual storytelling rather than spoken dialogue. The production invites audiences of all ages and backgrounds into a world of connection, kindness, and discovery.

Clint has a long and trusted working relationship with Indelarts, who are thrilled to be engaged as access consultants for this project. Indelarts have collaborated closely with Clint and his team to ensure that every element of the production is accessible, inclusive, and welcoming to the broadest sector of the disability community. Together, we will embed access and inclusion at every stage of The Lost Balloon's creative journey.



Partnership and Approach

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Proposed Access Initiatives

Pre-Recorded Social Story

- » A tailor-made pre-recorded social story, narrated by Clint Bolster, will introduce audiences to the characters, music, and world of The Lost Balloon.
- » This will be available:
 - On-site through a monitor and headphones in a quiet, low-sensory space.
 - Online via the Homunculus Theatre Company website and via QR codes on promotional materials and ticketing confirmations.
- » The pre-recording will include Auslan interpretation and captioning.
- » This allows audiences, especially autistic and disability patrons, to familiarise themselves with what to expect before attending.

Tactile and Sensory Walkthroughs

- » An hour before the show, audience members can take part in a tactile & sensory walkthrough of the set, playing space & backstage area.
- » Audience members will have the opportunity to:
 - Feel and explore the masks and costumes of key characters, including the Tourists, the Golden Oldies, the Lollipop Ladies, and a lonely character who discovers the Lost Balloon.
 - Meet the actors and backstage crew, fostering familiarity and comfort.
 - Engage with the original musical score, which plays a major role in character and emotional storytelling.

The music will accompany each stage of the sensory tour, supporting audience members to associate sounds with characters and moments in the show.

Relaxed Performances

- » Throughout the season, The Lost Balloon will offer relaxed performances.
- » These will include:
 - Adapted lighting and sound levels,
 - Flexible audience movement,
 - Quiet entry/exit options,
 - Trained staff support, and
 - Designated relaxed performance sessions that include audio description.

This ensures an inclusive and comfortable environment for audiences with sensory sensitivities or other access needs.

Audio Description

- » There is an option for real-time or pre-recorded narration of the action delivered between or during moments of music or silence so it doesn't overlap with key sounds. The description must be selective and rhythmic to match the pace of the performance and using language that is sensory based and concise.
- » Through audio description the sound, music, and movement of The Lost Balloon will ensure vision impaired audience members an equitable and objective experience.



Relaxed Space (chill out space)

- » A relaxed space will be set up within or adjacent to the performance playing area.
- » This area will include:
 - Comfortable seating — couches, bean bags, cushions, and familiar sensory comforts.
 - Access to the pre-show social story video and live video link of the performance with headphones, so audience members who need a break can continue engaging safely and on their own terms.
 - Low lighting, gentle sensory materials, and staff support, where possible.

This ensures audience members can self-regulate and rejoin the experience at their own pace.

Commitment to Inclusion

Indelarts and Clint Bolster share a deep commitment to making The Lost Balloon accessible, engaging, and joyful for everyone. Through thoughtful design, open collaboration, and a spirit of inclusion, this production stands as a model of best practice in accessible Australian theatre ensuring that every person, regardless of disability or sensory preference, can share in the magic of live performance.

The Lost Balloon is a shining example of how theatre can lift us all reminding us that the magic of live performance truly belongs to everyone.





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