

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

By Bridie Hooper



FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

A DECLARATION OF HOPE

A hope is not a wish, but a protest for what is possible.

Performed at dusk below an iconic bell, Bridie Hooper invites you to share your hopes and bear witness to a series of performed passages that inspire a reconsideration of our unity and connection.

Drawing on the bell's sonic wonder, the virtuosity of circus, and the intimacy of the invitation, each hope is transformed through a personalised physical rite, ascending to its release in the distinctive sound of the tolling bell.

Ringling out across the landscape, these calls to action celebrate the power of hope, empowering us through an innately human experience.

What do you hope for?

ABOUT THE WORK

Part installation, part interactive performance, For Whom The Bell Tolls is a transformative public art experience.

Merging circus, participatory art and a tolling bell, this work activates unique or quotidian spaces as locations where art and community meet and thrive.

The hour-long work consists of a series of cyclic, intimate rituals of exchange punctuated with the performer's ascent to toll a bell suspended up to 10m high. It invites audience members to share their deepest hope one-to-one with the artist, whose personalised physical reply forms an intimate dialogue with the participant, culminating in the hope's transformation, celebration and release in sonic form.

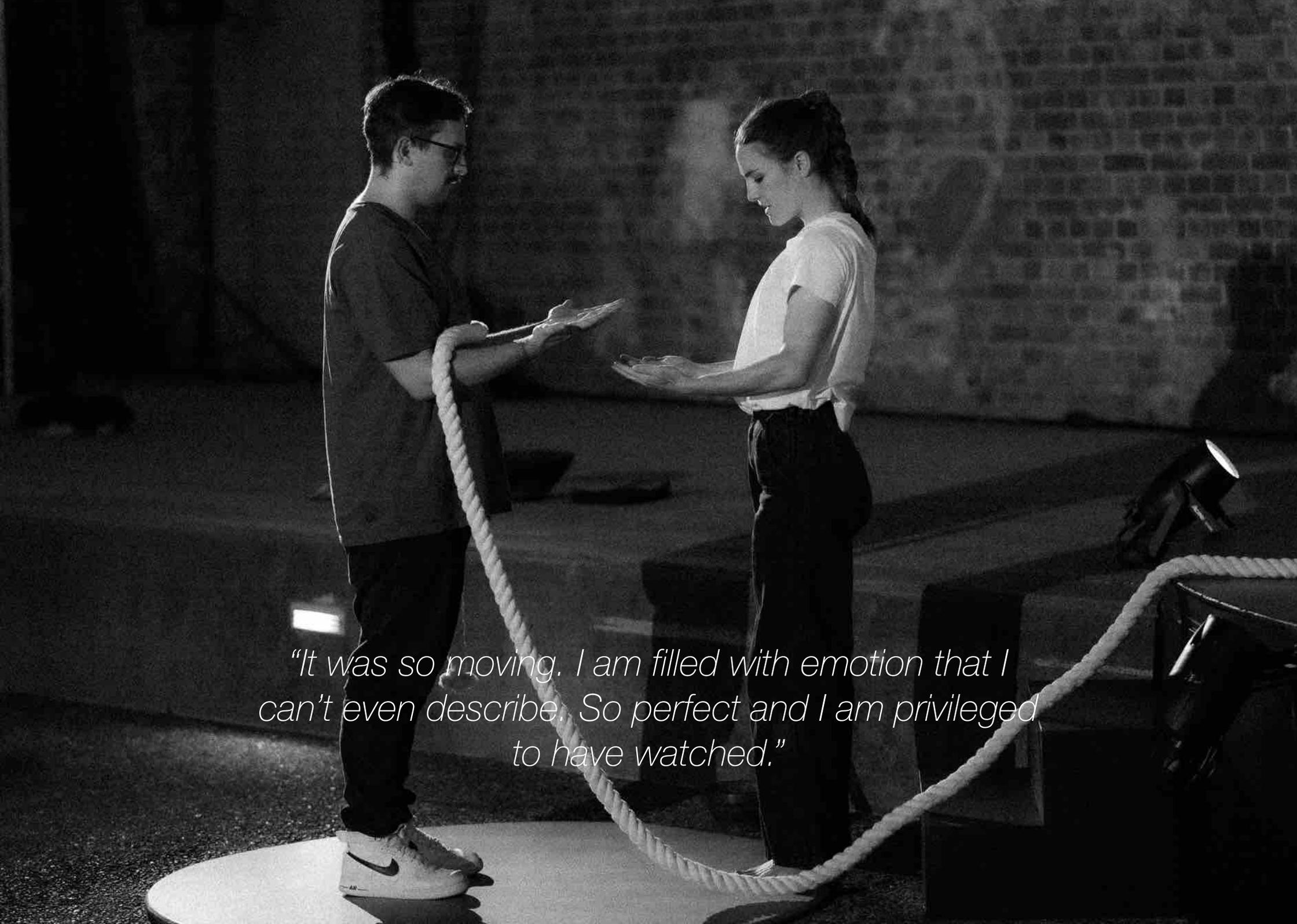
Through the aural resonance of the bell's tolling, the sound frequencies surrounding onlookers will be altered, momentarily placing everybody on the same wave-length – a powerful uniting of energy through sonic frequency that inspires a reconsideration of our unity and connection through hope.

After the overwhelming success of its premiere season, we look forward to bringing this experience of communal hope to communities around Australia and the world.

PERFORMANCE HISTORY

4-week season at Night Feast, October 2023.

Presented by Brisbane Powerhouse



"It was so moving. I am filled with emotion that I can't even describe. So perfect and I am privileged to have watched."

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS CREATIVE TEAM

Lead Artist/Director | Bridie Hooper

Dramaturg | Liesel Zink

Composition | Lawrence English

Bell Design, Concept and tuning | Anton Hasell

Lighting Design | Steven May

Production Manager | Peter Rhoades

Stage Manager | Imogen Millhouse

Original Season Producer | Tom Pritchard

ABOUT

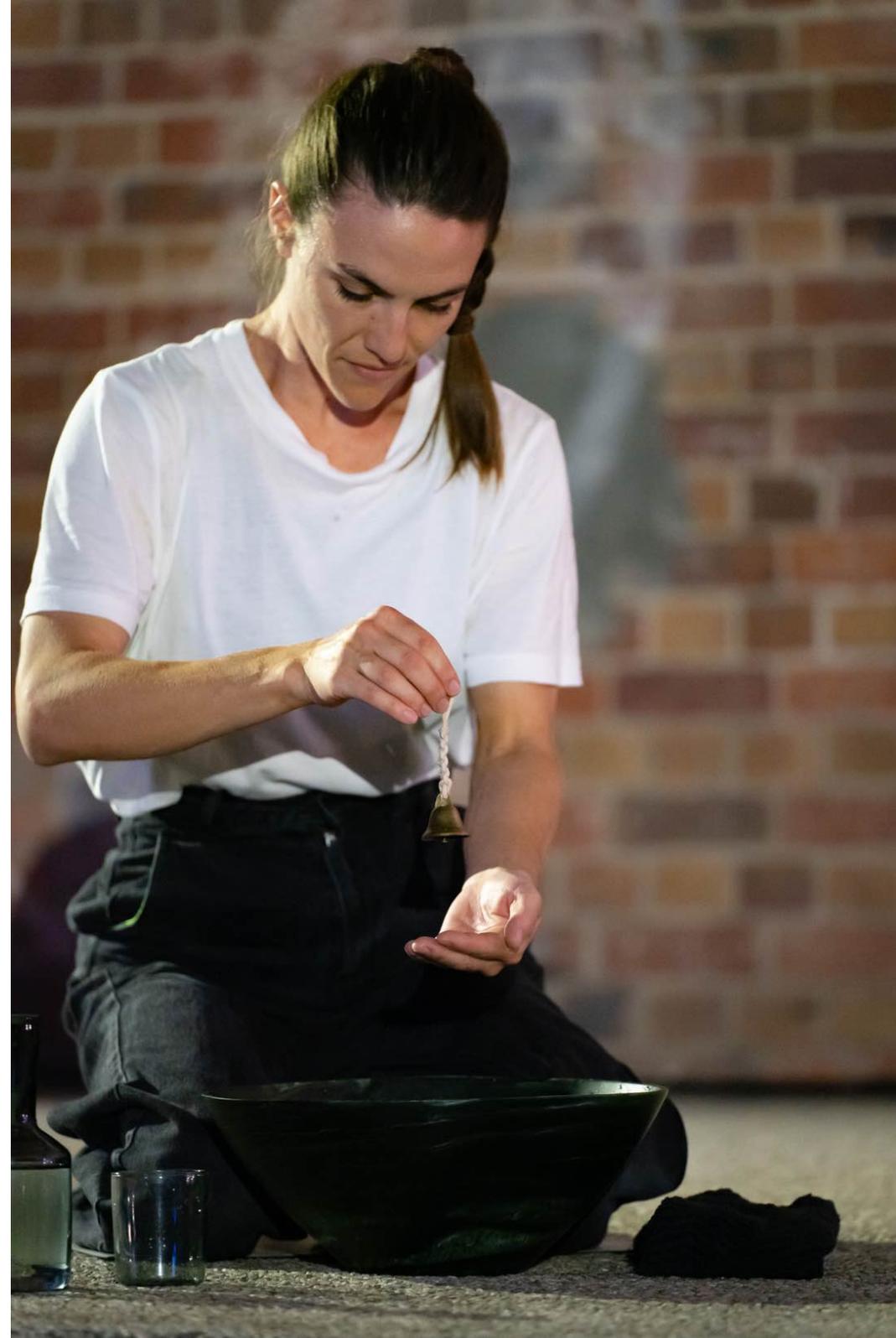
Bridie Hooper is an award-winning, interdisciplinary artist, championing circus within experimental performance art.

Bridie's performance career includes working nationally and internationally with companies including **GOP Varieté Theatre**, **Chelsea McGuffin Co**, **Reuben Kaye**, **Polytoxic** and a 9-year engagement with internationally acclaimed **Circa Contemporary Circus**.

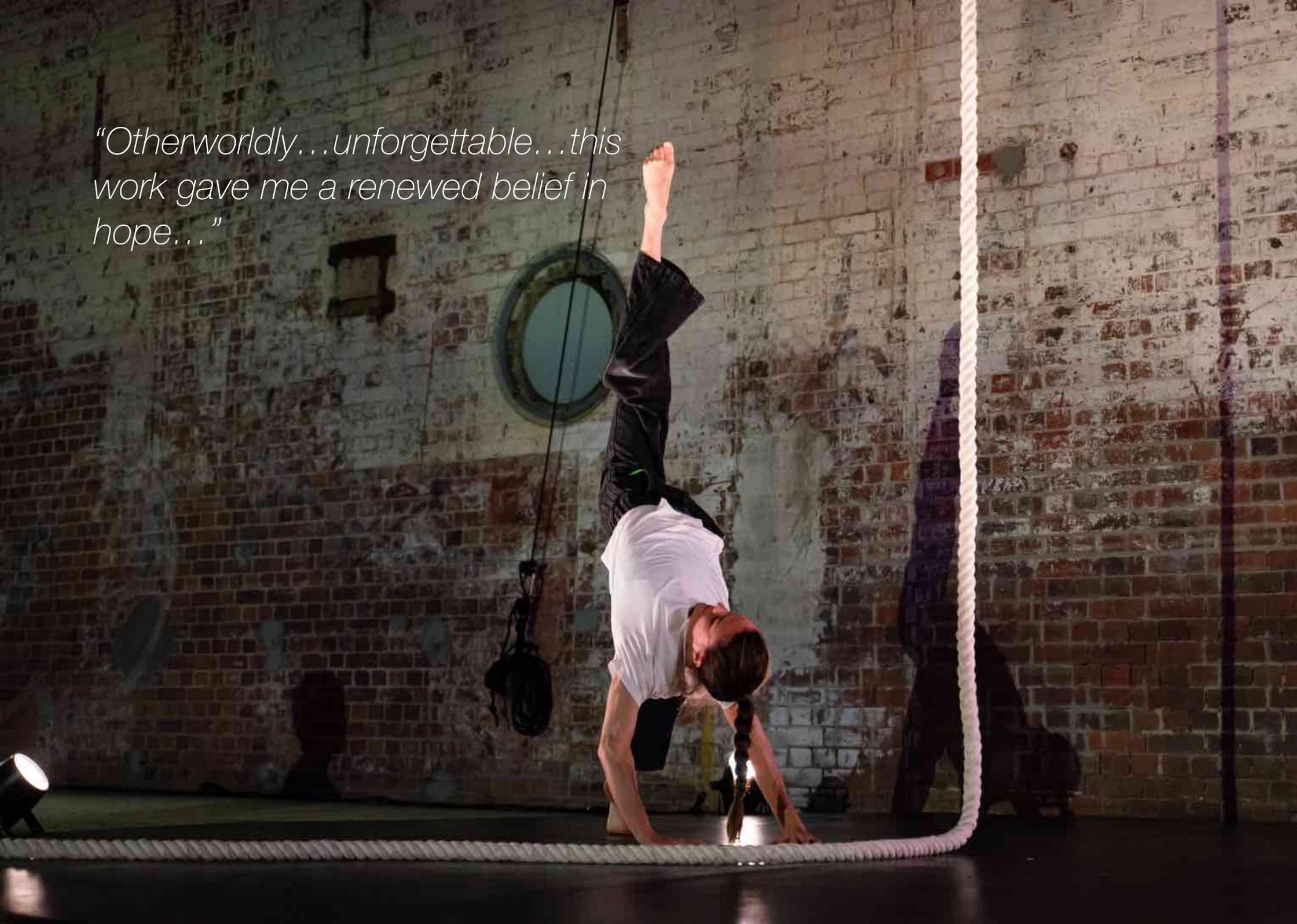
In April 2021 Bridie produced, created and performed her debut solo show, **INGRESS**, premiering at the Judith Wright Arts Centre in Brisbane. This work received a **2021 Matilda Award for Best Circus/Physical Theatre Production** and the **Melbourne Fringe WA Touring Award 2022**, as well as receiving nominations for **Melbourne Fringe Best Circus** and **Spirit of Fringe**.

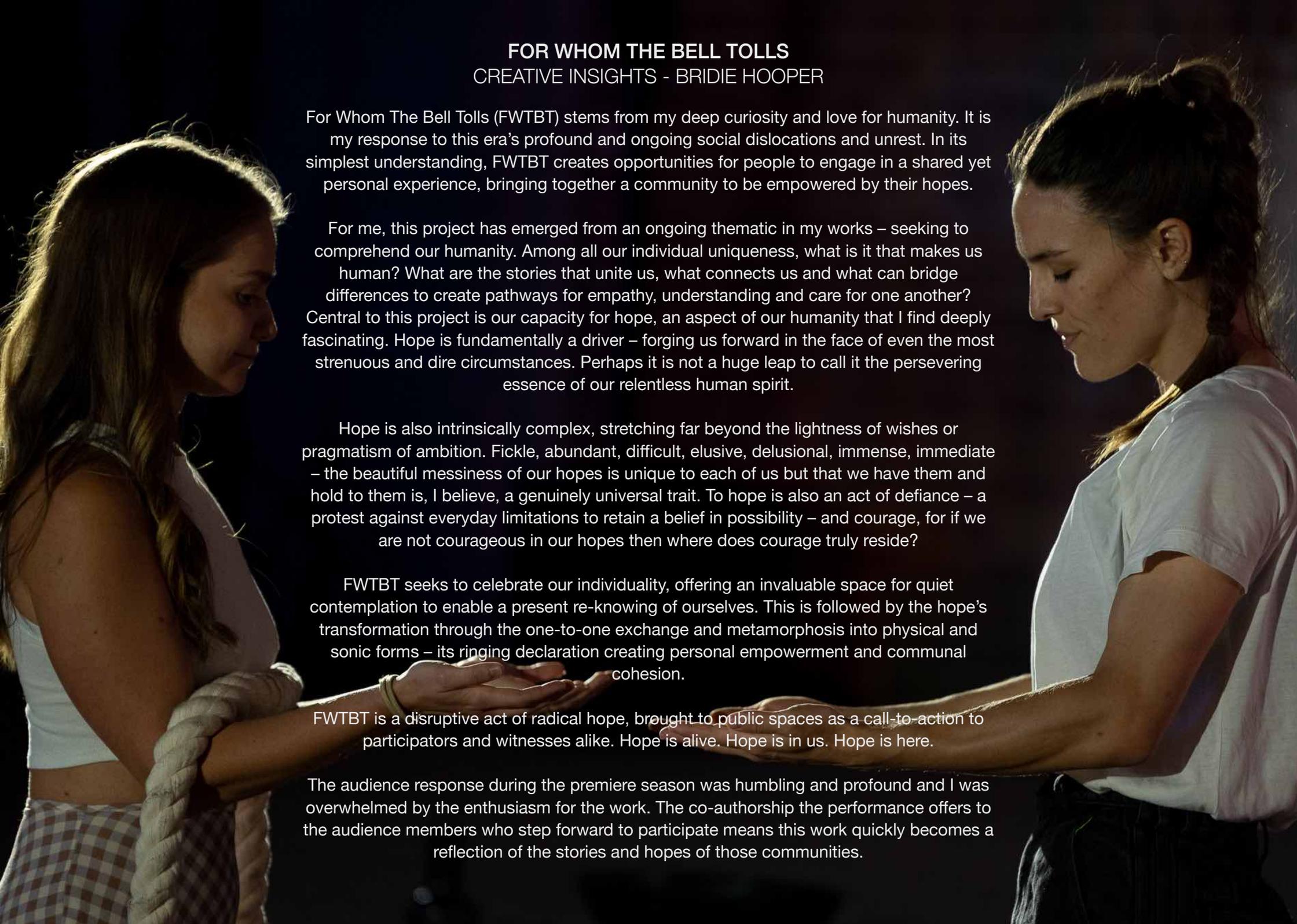
Her latest creation, **For Whom The Bell Tolls**, a participatory, public art experience celebrating the power of hope, premiered at **Night Feast Festival, Brisbane Powerhouse** in October 2023.

Bridie was a recipient of **The Unconformity** residency in 2023 and was selected for the **MICC Utopian Program** in 2024.



“Otherworldly...unforgettable...this work gave me a renewed belief in hope...”



A photograph of two women in profile, facing each other. The woman on the left has long, light-colored hair and is wearing a white crop top and a plaid skirt. She is holding a thick, light-colored rope. The woman on the right has dark hair pulled back and is wearing a white t-shirt. They are both looking down at their hands, which are positioned near each other. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting their profiles and the rope.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

CREATIVE INSIGHTS - BRIDIE HOOPER

For Whom The Bell Tolls (FWTBT) stems from my deep curiosity and love for humanity. It is my response to this era's profound and ongoing social dislocations and unrest. In its simplest understanding, FWTBT creates opportunities for people to engage in a shared yet personal experience, bringing together a community to be empowered by their hopes.

For me, this project has emerged from an ongoing thematic in my works – seeking to comprehend our humanity. Among all our individual uniqueness, what is it that makes us human? What are the stories that unite us, what connects us and what can bridge differences to create pathways for empathy, understanding and care for one another? Central to this project is our capacity for hope, an aspect of our humanity that I find deeply fascinating. Hope is fundamentally a driver – forging us forward in the face of even the most strenuous and dire circumstances. Perhaps it is not a huge leap to call it the persevering essence of our relentless human spirit.

Hope is also intrinsically complex, stretching far beyond the lightness of wishes or pragmatism of ambition. Fickle, abundant, difficult, elusive, delusional, immense, immediate – the beautiful messiness of our hopes is unique to each of us but that we have them and hold to them is, I believe, a genuinely universal trait. To hope is also an act of defiance – a protest against everyday limitations to retain a belief in possibility – and courage, for if we are not courageous in our hopes then where does courage truly reside?

FWTBT seeks to celebrate our individuality, offering an invaluable space for quiet contemplation to enable a present re-knowing of ourselves. This is followed by the hope's transformation through the one-to-one exchange and metamorphosis into physical and sonic forms – its ringing declaration creating personal empowerment and communal cohesion.

FWTBT is a disruptive act of radical hope, brought to public spaces as a call-to-action to participators and witnesses alike. Hope is alive. Hope is in us. Hope is here.

The audience response during the premiere season was humbling and profound and I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm for the work. The co-authorship the performance offers to the audience members who step forward to participate means this work quickly becomes a reflection of the stories and hopes of those communities.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

Genre | Circus, Sound Art, Participatory Art

Audience | General Public, all ages

Content Rating | G

Duration | 60 minutes approximately

Min. Break between shows | 90 mins

Touring Party | 3

Formats | Public Spaces, Gallery - options for both outdoor and indoor spaces

Context | This show is developed for public spaces within festival contexts, or within indoor spaces with high foot traffic eg galleries or museums

Bump In | Full Day

Bump Out | 4 hours

Dressing Room | 1 x Dressing room or private space required for performer and crew

Rider | Access to water. Ice on standby for performer use as required

Engagement Options | Workshop or Post-show discussion

EXAMPLE SHOW SCHEDULE

1 venue 5 performances

Monday	Travel	
Tuesday	Bump In 8 am - 11am	Install rigging, LX + Sound
	11am - 12pm	Install staging
	12 pm	Lunch
	1pm - 2pm	Sound tune, FOH briefing (as required), signage set up
	2pm-4pm	LX Focus and Plot
	4pm-5pm	Dinner
	6pm-8pm	Tech Safety
Wednesday	SHOW 1 3:30pm - 6pm	Show Call
	6:30pm - 7:30pm	Show #1
Thursday	Workshop + SHOW 2	
Friday	SHOW 3	
Saturday	SHOW 4 + 5 Bump Out	
Sunday	DAY OFF	

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

For Whom The Bell Tolls seeks to activate public spaces through a considered disruption of specific sites, such as galleries, foyers & outdoor sites. The sites could be iconic or quotidian, but should consider audience flow as a priority. It can also exist indoors in an open theatre setting, with each space configured to support a varied audience engagement in the work.

Please find below details of minimum staging requirements.

PERFORMANCE SPACE

The performance is staged across three zones (please see image) made up of:

- 1 X 4.8m circular space (Zone 1) centred below the rigging point
- 1 X 1 x 1m space (Zone 2) located 1.5m to P side of space 1
- 1 X 1.8m circular space (Zone 3) downstage OP of space 1

The total playing space required is approx 7m x 7m. The floor must be stable, level and suitable for acrobatic impact. If the flooring is unsuitable, the following staging will be required:

- 1 X 5 x 5m staging rostra no higher than 0.6m
- 2 X set of treads positioned between staging space (1) and space 2 & 3

Please note the positioning of spaces 2 and 3 can be adjusted to fit space as required.

Minimum height to rigging point 8m.

SOUND

The show runs off QLab. Touring company will supply laptop. Please see technical specifications for further details. Operated by touring production manager / venue operator as negotiated.

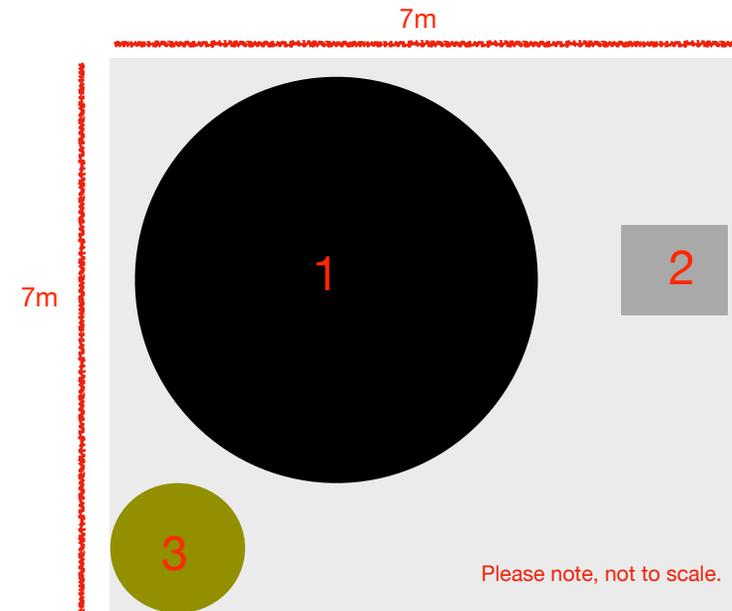
LIGHTING

Please see separate lighting plan and lighting requirements in technical specifications for further details. Operated by touring production manager / venue operator as negotiated.

EQUIPMENT

Supplied by the touring company

- 1 x aerial rope
- 1 x chain
- 1 x custom designed bell (70kgs)
- 1 x 1.8 m circular engagement space (3)
- Rigging beneath truss fixture



RIGGING

One aerial rope is used during the performance, hung from a single lower-able point at centre stage that is tethered to a floor point/ground weight off stage.

One custom-designed bell is used during the performance, hung from a static line 600mm off centre from the rope.

Rigging points must be rated to a loading of 1000 Kg.

All Rigging equipment below the truss apart from the floor points/ weights are supplied by the Company.

CREWING

The crew required for Bump In:

- 1 x rigger (must be experienced in rigging circus).
- 2 X LX
- 2 X SD
- 2 MX

Crew required for show season:

- 1 x FOH (minimum per show, preference for consistent across season)
- 1 x LX (TBC, as negotiated)

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS MARKETING

LINKS TO VIDEOS

- [Trailer](#)
- [20-minute archive of performance](#)

PROJECT WEBPAGE

- www.bridiehooper.com/for-whom-the-bell-tolls

HERO IMAGES

- <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TOqhJrU2Q8-7yReJDf6X4pFUFu4XEmgY?usp=sharing>

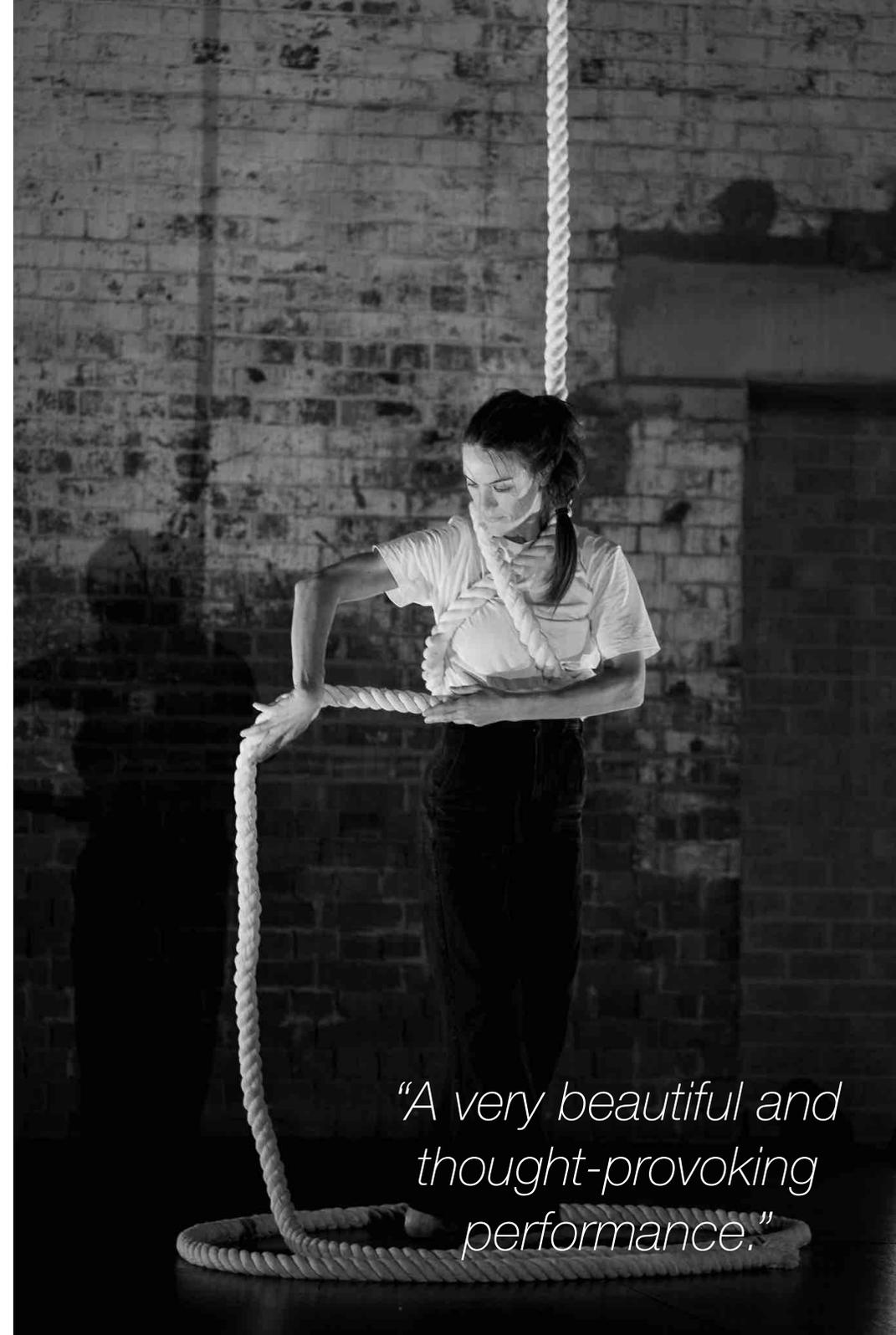
EXAMPLE SHOW COPY - NIGHT FEAST 2023

A bell tolls as dusk falls, ringing out across the Brisbane Powerhouse forecourt.

Suspended from the building's precipice, a rope stretches from ground to sky. Below, a figure stands waiting, arms outstretched, inviting you forward to share your hope.

Bear witness to the series of physical rituals that unfold as the figure twists and tumbles before ascending the rope to toll the bell in a resonant offering. Blending the virtuosity of circus with the bell's sonic wonder, Bridie Hooper's new work celebrates the power of hope, inspiring a reconsideration of our unity and connection.

What do you hope for?



*"A very beautiful and
thought-provoking
performance."*



*"It is so beautiful to watch...
giving a hope made me hopeful"*

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS INSTRUCTIONAL SIGNAGE

For Whom The Bell Tolls invites audience to participate in the work, through sharing their hopes with the artist.

Instructional signage is used to explain to audiences how to do this.

The number of signs required is dependent on the site the work will be staged in. Generally we aim to be informative, yet minimal with the amount of signage information.

We ask the Venue to provide signage so it can be cohesive with any existing signage, the Artist is responsible for supplying the copy and giving final approvals.

Please see these examples of signage from Night Feast 2023.

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS BRIDIE HOOPER

A declaration of hope:

1. Take a moment to think of something you hope for.
2. Place your palms on mine and when you are ready, speak your hope.
3. A ritual of exchange takes place.
4. Your hope will be transported and released in sonic form.
5. Thank you for offering your hope.

Your hope will be held with care and confidentiality.
The invitation to declare your hope is for anyone and everyone,
if the above engagement method does not feel comfortable
for you, please chat with our friendly staff to discuss another
way to connect.

For more information: 

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Ringling out across the Powerhouse forecourt, these calls to action celebrate the power of hope, empowering us through an innately human experience.

We invite you to declare your hopes..

PERFORMANCE TIMES:

Thursday
Friday
Saturday

The show will begin at dusk.

For more information: 

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS ENGAGEMENT

We offer additional engagement opportunities that are devised in response to For Whom The Bell Tolls.

We can offer up to one of these options per season:

- **Radical Hope Workshop** - 2 hrs.

Workshop focused on the foundational concepts of receiving and offering, within participatory performance. This workshop explores hope as an action, through movement, connection and exchange. It involves a physical preparation of body and mind to ready oneself for creating space to listen, hear and hold space within the act of audience engagement. Max 10 participants, age range 18 +

- **Devising Workshop** - 2 hrs.

Workshop devising physical material through improvisation, using circus, movement and physical theatre. Max participants 12. Participants must have experience in circus, dance or movement. Age range 16 +

- **Post-Show discussion** - up to one per season.

Must take place on a show day. Requires facilitator and artist approval of marketing copy.



*“Amazing. I feel
winded.”*

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS CONTACT

For additional information please don't hesitate to contact Bridie.



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www.bridiehooper.com



<https://instagram.com/brindlehoop>



<https://vimeo.com/bridiehooper>

Photographs by Billie Wilson-Coffey, Jade Ellis and Jade Ferguson

For Whom the Bell Tolls was supported by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its arts funding and advisory body, the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland and is supported through the Australian Cultural Fund. It has received additional support from the wonderful ShawCandy, Brisbane Powerhouse, Circa and Flipside Circus. The premiere season was made possible thanks to the generosity of all those who donated to its fundraising campaign.



Queensland
Government



"I found it very powerful and I am so grateful to have been part of it..."

"So unique, powerful and moving. It evoked such emotion and the people who offered their hope seem so moved by the exchange! Unique and beautiful.."

" Mesmerising. Powerful. Stunning. Profound. Just loved every bit of it."

