



# KOAL

BY JACINTA YELLAND & TREY LYFORD

## PRESENTER PACK



**gimmick**

**THE  
WORK**

# KOAL

## PRESENTER PACK

### ABOUT

Part climate-catastrophe, part clown show—**KOAL** is a one-woman show for the end of the world. As wildfires tear through Australia, a baby koala, a coal miner and an Indigenous girl desperately strive to hold onto their homes before all burns and turns to ash.

### 5 STAR AWARD



2023 PHILADELPHIA FRINGE FESTIVAL

**KOAL** is an interactive solo-show, performed by Jacinta Yelland and directed by Trey Lyford, that immerses the audience in the middle of the 2019 Australian bushfires. The show follows two eyewitnesses to this climate catastrophe; Koal, a baby koala recovering at a wildlife sanctuary after being saved from a nearby wildfire, and Stevo, a career coal miner trapped in a collapsed mine hundreds of meters underground. Woven throughout is the story of Minah, an Indigenous girl who was removed from her home and interned by her government during WWII.

Using documentary theatre, clown, and audience interaction, **KOAL** takes the audience from laughter to tears as it explores what is lost when your home is erased.





“THIS PIECE IS **BEAUTIFUL!**  
JACINTA'S PERFORMANCE IS OVERFLOWING WITH  
**CLARITY, BRAVERY, AND INTEGRITY.**”

- EVA STEINMETZ,  
ARTISTIC PRODUCER - PIG IRON THEATRE COMPANY

“PHYSICAL AND EVOCATIVE,  
ENGAGING AND ENTERTAINING...  
**UNLIKE ANYTHING I HAVE SEEN.**  
YELLAND IS A **SUPERB STORYTELLER.**”

- THE THEATRE.AU (AUS)

## CREDITS

### PERFORMER & CREATOR

Jacinta Yelland

### DIRECTOR, CREATOR AND ADDITIONAL SOUND DESIGN

Trey Lyford

### ORIGINAL MUSIC & SOUND DESIGN

Ethan Mentzer

### SET DESIGN

Payton Smith

### MASKS

Barbaric Yawp Workshop

### COSTUME CONSULTANT

Grace Lillian Lee

### PRODUCER

Jacinta Yelland

### PRODUCTION IMAGES

Ashley Smith of Wide Eyed Studios and HanJie Chow

## KOAL HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF



THE BOWER  
ESTATE



fresh ground pepper nyc

**gimmick**



The Puffin Foundation, Ltd.

PARTNERED HEALTH  
MEDICAL CENTRES

**THE WORK**



PHILADELPHIA  
ASIAN PERFORMING  
ARTISTS



“YELLAND’S STAGECRAFT  
THROUGHOUT IS **INTOXICATING.**”

- THE BLURB (AUS)

# MARKETING

## & SHOW INFO

### MARKETING MATERIALS

The production will provide venue with access to marketing collateral including: high quality hero and promotional images; promo videos; media releases; reviews and quotes.



[TEASER](#)  
[FULL SHOW](#)



[THETHEATRE.AU REVIEW](#)  
[NEW YORK THEATER REVIEW](#)  
[VAUDEVISUALS REVIEW](#)

### SHOW DURATION

70 Minutes. No Interval.

### CONTENT WARNING

8+ | Strong Language | Climate Catastrophe

### CURRICULUM LINKS

Compatible with Yrs 7-12 English, History & Drama curriculum.



KOAL IS PUBLISHED BY PLAYLAB THEATRE AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE [HERE](#).



# TECH SPECS

## Lighting Requirements

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General Plot:

Full stage wash from front, sides, back, and shins. The ability to control the lighting by planes is required.

Blackout:

Several scenes are lit by flashlights only, therefore it is important to have as close to a complete blackout as possible.

## Sound Requirements

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PA/Sound system ideally with subs including a minimum of 2 speakers.

## Set Design

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Set consists of 2ft, 4ft, 8ft ladders covered in brown paper, fake leaves, magnets and hooks.

## Equipment/Personnel Requirements

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- Fog machine with DMX
- Cyc
- TD / Operating Board Programmer

Access full tech rider [here](#).



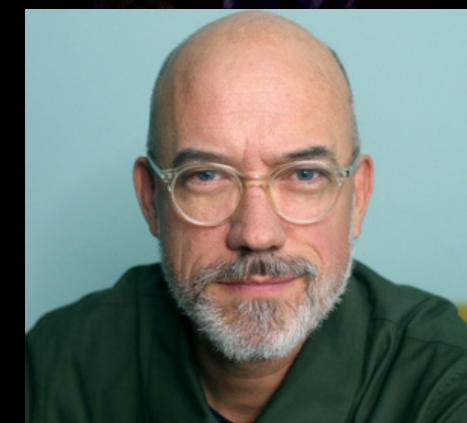
"I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PUT INTO WORDS  
JUST HOW MOVING THIS SHOW IS.  
I CRIED, AND I LAUGHED, AND IT MADE ME  
WANT TO BE **A BETTER HUMAN BEING.**"

- AUDIENCE MEMBER



**JACINTA YELLAND**  
CREATOR / PERFORMER

Jacinta Yelland is an Australian theatre creator and performer of Chinese and Torres Strait Islander descent, based in Philadelphia, USA. Jacinta has collaborated with RealTV, Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre, Elbow Room Productions, Australia's National Play Festival, Opera Philadelphia, David Gordon, Pig Iron Theatre Company, Quintessence Theatre Group, McCarter Theatre Center, People's Light, Lightning Rod Special, Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists and The Berserker Residents. She holds an MFA in Devised Performance from University of the Arts/Pig Iron Theatre Company, completed the Zen Zen Zo Physical Theatre Company Internship, and was supported by Arts Queensland to study at École Philippe Gaulier, Paris. Jacinta is the co-artistic director of inFLUX Theatre Collective. Their debut show, *The Choice*, won the Philly Fringies Award for Best Theatre at the 2021 Philadelphia Fringe Festival and was co-produced by HERE Arts Center in New York City as part of their 2022 Co-Op series. With the support of Australia Council for the Arts, Jacinta attended The Hemispheric Institute's 11th Encuentro in Mexico City in 2019 where she collaborated with artists, activists and academics to create theater that addresses climate change. Her work has been supported by Creative Australia, Arts Queensland, American Australian Association, Network of Ensemble Theaters, City of Philadelphia, The Puffin Foundation Ltd., and The Work. [www.jacintayelland.com](http://www.jacintayelland.com)



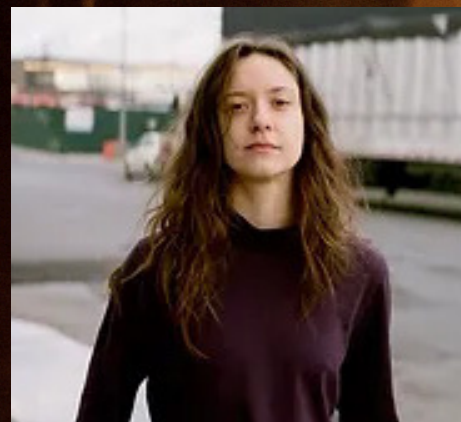
**TREY LYFORD**  
CREATOR / DIRECTOR

Trey Lyford has been creating original works for the stage for nearly two decades and most recently with his theatre company - gimmick. Lyford is the founding Co-Artistic Director of rainpan 43 where he has, along with colleague Geoff Sobelle, created and performed in all of their works to date. Following a world tour of r43's first piece all wear bowlers (2005 Drama Desk Nomination, Innovative Theatre Award), r43 followed up with *Amnesia Curiosa*, the OBIE award-winning kinetic junk sculpture play machines, machines, machines, machines, machines, machines, machines, and the much toured absurd magic show *Elephant Room*. In 2020 they premiered the commissioned ZOOM performance work *Elephant Room: Dust From the Stars* at the Philadelphia FringeArts Festival as well as LA's Center Theater Group. He has performed his original works in four continents including venues across the U.S. such as LA's Center Theatre Group, Philadelphia FringeArts, HERE Arts Center, St. Ann's Warehouse, La Jolla Playhouse, Berkeley Rep, Studio Theater, Arena Stage, and theaters throughout NYC. Further support for his work includes grants from Creative Capital, NEFA, NYSCA, and PEW Center for Arts & Heritage. Lyford is also an Associate Artist with The Civilians and a faculty member at UArts and the Pig Iron MFA in Devised Performance. [www.treilyford.com](http://www.treilyford.com)



**ETHAN MENTZER**  
ORIGINAL MUSIC COMPOSITION  
/ SOUND DESIGN

Ethan Mentzer is a musician, composer, producer and engineer based in Philadelphia. Mentzer holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Production and Engineering from Berklee College of Music. At Berklee he met his co-founding bandmates of The Click Five (Lava/Atlantic). Ethan has composed music for commercials, film and TV including Daybreak, Shameless, Bad Night, Yours, Mine & Ours, Igor, Bigger Fatter Liar, Power Rangers, Sydney White, Taking 5, John Tucker Must Die, Hey Fibi. He composed the music for inFLUX Theatre Collective's award-winning show The Choice. He is the recipient of a Boston Music Award and the MTV VMA Knockout Award. [www.ethanmentzer.com](http://www.ethanmentzer.com)



**PAYTON SMITH**  
SET DESIGN

Payton Smith is an interdisciplinary theater maker. She has performed, crafted, designed, directed, and stage managed in Philadelphia, New York, New Orleans, and Santa Fe. She studied Theater and Performance at Bard College and the National Theater Institute at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center. Payton is most interested in exploring/challenging/playing with the power of the finite across all things live arts. Recent Philadelphia collaborations have included Pig Iron Theater Company, Nichole Canuso Dance Company, Annie Wilson, Alex Tatarsky, Bearded Ladies Cabaret, Philly Children's Theatre, and Urban Movement Arts. [www.paytonsmith.com](http://www.paytonsmith.com)



**BARBARIC YAWP  
WORKSHOP**  
MASKS

Barbaric Yawp Workshop is the artistic collaboration of husband and wife duo Kasidy Devlin & Natalie Kropf, specializing in mask making, theatre creation, and storytelling inspired by folklore and mythology. Kasidy trained as a mask maker and performer in Orvieto, Italy and at the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre. He is the longest running Sir Robin in Monty Python's Spamalot history, having toured with the Broadway production on and off for 10 years. Natalie has a degree in Acting from Cornell College, and has performed in off Broadway theatres such as the Public Theatre, the Culture Project, the Vineyard Theatre, and the Signature Theatre. Natalie and Kasidy married in 2018, and founded Barbaric Yawp Workshop in 2021, with its inaugural mask making project 'Jack and Jill' in collaboration with British poet Thomas Sharp. [www.barbaricyawpworkshop.com](http://www.barbaricyawpworkshop.com)



**GRACE LILLIAN LEE**  
COSTUME CONSULTANT

Grace Lillian Lee is the founder of First Nations Fashion and Design. She is a graduate of RMIT University with Honors in Fashion Design and has established herself as one of Australia's leading Indigenous artists and designers with works collected by the National Gallery of Victoria, Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Art Gallery of South Australia, Cairns Art Gallery, Art Gallery of NSW, and Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Collection of University of Virginia. Under her established company, Grace Lillian Lee Productions Pty Lts, Grace produced Intertwined Fashion Performance at the Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast. As a consultant and mentor, Grace has worked with Darnley Island and Moa in the Torres Straits, Northern Territory communities Nuiya and Katherine as well as many independent creatives. [www.gracelillianlee.com](http://www.gracelillianlee.com)

## UPCOMING PERFORMANCES

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### HOTA, HOME OF THE ARTS

Gold Coast, QLD, AUS  
June 11th-12th, 2026

### THE EVENTS CENTRE

Caloundra, QLD, AUS  
June 17th, 2026

### MANNING ENT. CENTRE

Taree, NSW, AUS  
June 26th, 2026

### MANDURAH PERF. CENTRE

Mandurah, WA, AUS  
June 29th, 2026

### MOONAH PERF. ARTS

Moonah, TAS, AUS  
July 3rd-4th, 2026

### BRISBANE POWERHOUSE

Brisbane, QLD, AUS  
July 9th-11th, 2026

## PAST PERFORMANCES

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### PHILADELPHIA FRINGE FESTIVAL

Philadelphia, PA, USA  
Sept 13th - 21st, 2023

### ARS NOVA

New York City, NY, USA  
Jan 20th, 2024

### THEATRE WORKS

Melbourne, VIC, AUSTRALIA  
May 22nd - June 1st, 2024

### AUS. THEATRE FESTIVAL

Theatre Row, NYC, NY, USA  
Nov 23rd - 24th, 2024

### PHYSFEST NYC

New York City, NY, USA  
Jan 10th-11th, 2025

### THEATRE EXILE

Philadelphia, PA, USA  
Feb 27 - March 8, 2025

### CELEBRATION BARN

Maine, ME, USA  
May 16th, 2025



**“THE RAVE REVIEWS DID NOT EXAGGERATE.  
IT WAS A MASTER CLASS IN PHYSICAL THEATRE AND  
THE AUDIENCE WAS ON THEIR FEET BEFORE IT FINISHED.”**

*- SHANA KENNEDY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CIRCADIUM*

