

## **Screech Theatre Performances - Not just for Entertainment**

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### **Short Abstract**

Screech Theatre Performers were accepted to present their created works for the - Anywhere Theatre Festivals 2023 & 2024. We are a group of 10 or more performers and support staff whom presented our stories, lived experiences of living with a disability and our communication styles with a different way of story telling for our audiences. We want to share our groups views and experiences of these two projects.

We will share our ways that we developed the two projects and how our process has grown. From initial workshop of ideas, coming back to the main group for feedback on how scenes were coming across to the audience, exploration of techniques in drama and best ways to include our communication devices into the performances. Sharing our experiences of a professional theatre setting, that helped to build confidence as actors being recognised in the Brisbane artistic culture.

**Performance 2023** "*Blind In The Rabbit Hole*" **Tag Line:** "Stigma Through The Looking Glass"

This is a contemporary heavily physical theatre piece based around the elements of "Alice in Wonderland" but looking at our artists stories and lived experiences of stigma.

**Performance 2024** "*Suspended in the Split Second*" **Tag Line:** "*Fear in the headlights*"

Facing your fears is never an easy task. Overcoming them can be harder. *Suspended in the Split Second* explores the universal experience of navigating your fears and trauma through storytelling. This captivating physical theatre piece emphasises how connection and support can help you to face and overcome your fears.

### **Long Abstract**

*Screech Theatre* is a community initiative of CPL 'Support in the Community', that provides performing arts training and performance opportunities for people with a disability. Dale is

very passionate about Screech Theatre as “it understands the importance of everyone having the opportunity of having their voice and stories heard” he explains. Screech Theatre promotes the development of communication and use of communication devices for the non-verbal and encompasses many theatre groups of all ages.

The stories focus on social issues like dealing with loss, finding your inner strength, self acceptance, celebrating people’s differences and living life to the fullest. The performances also include an innovative adaption of the theatre style by challenging typically used music and dance techniques. The uniqueness of the project is seen by the way in which the ensemble adapts to the music theatre techniques and explores the social issues through this medium. These techniques foster the development of the ensemble’s own theatre style and challenge what is considered the norm. This allows the opportunity for people with a disability to provide a unique contribution to Brisbane’s artistic and cultural community. Screech Theatre believes in the importance of arts innovation and practice as it adds to community growth and harmony, therefore enhancing Brisbane’s culture scene.

Screech Theatre recognizes the inequity in society and, through these performance, aims to promote inclusion not only by providing a unique opportunity for these individuals to be involved in a professional performance, but by being able to develop an already existing theatre style with their own distinctive approach. Dale said these performances have helped him “and the other performers to demonstrate their abilities to a public audience and to gain recognition for their valuable contribution to the community and theatre sector”.

*Anywhere Festivals* is a Queensland not-for-profit company leading the world with exciting and engaging storytelling and performance that happens anywhere and puts artists first with Anywhere Festival in Brisbane and Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast. Anywhere Festivals makes it possible for performance makers to create works anywhere and for audiences to engage with storytelling while discovering local nooks and crannies.

Screech Theatre Project 1 - Performance for 2023

**Title:** “*Blind In The Rabbit Hole*”

**Tag line:** “Stigma Through The Looking Glass”

**Details:**

This performance - “*Blind In The Rabbit Hole*”, is a combination between x2 Screech Arts performing groups, the "Actors Ensemble" and "Dance Troupe" group. This is a contemporary heavily physical theatre piece based around the elements of “Alice in Wonderland” but looking at our artists stories and lived experiences of stigma. Our character “Alice” falls into the rabbit hole with a want to educate herself on the realities of stigma through a fantasy world/rabbit hole exploring these stories and experiences. Not wanting to turn a “blind eye” to stigma anymore taking these learnings back to her reality with a hope to influence more communication, connection and therefore education on stigma in its many forms. The Dance Troupe will complement this piece with a dance to open the show and to close the show.

Performed in the evening (using torch and atmospheric lighting), the site becomes our metaphorical “rabbit hole” in which the audience can travel through exploring these stories throughout the space. Our aim is to create an interactive journey for our audience using this industrial building setting creating a raw, real and modern exploration of stigma and what that might mean.

**Performance Dates:** Ashgrove - 5,6,11 & 13th May & South Brisbane 21st September 2023

Project 2 - Performance for 2024

**Title:** - "*Suspended in the Split Second* "

**Tag Line:** - "*Fear in the headlights*"

**Short description:** - An exploration of fear. The creation of fear, different types of fear, experiences of trauma, triggers, differing reactions to fear and overcoming fear.

**General description:** - "*Suspended in the Split Second. Fear in the headlights*" is a theatre / physical theatre performance about the exploration of fear. The creation of a fear, different types of fear, experiences of trauma, triggers, differing reactions to fear and overcoming fear. The Screech Arts *Actors Ensemble* take the audience on a relatable and confronting journey through these explorations based on their own personal experiences, thoughts and feelings. With these discoveries, the artists hope to send a message that with connection and a strong support network around yourself, we can have the courage to face these fears together. With the thought that "*Fear can feel like a dark, lonely path. But together, we can light the way*".

The Screech Arts *Dance Troupe* offer as a support act to open the show.

**Performance Dates:** 2,3 & 4th August 2024