2009

Dramaturgy for My Darling Patricia production "Africa."

Christopher M. Ryan
University of Wollongong, cryan@uow.edu.au

Publication Details

Research Online is the open access institutional repository for the University of Wollongong. For further information contact the UOW Library: research-pubs@uow.edu.au
“My Darling Patricia has created a masterpiece of puppet theatre that will make you weep”. The Age

*Africa* is inspired by the true story of three children from Hannover, Germany who tried to elope to Africa, on their own and in the middle of the European winter. In My Darling Patricia’s production, this whimsical story of the unfettered imagination of young children is placed within a suburban Australian context of child neglect.

Where we see poverty and filth the children find giraffes, flamingos and leopards, and as the two worlds ultimately meet we are reminded of the heartbreaking resilience of a child’s optimism.

“It’s a stunning work... Realised with an admirable skill”. The Age, Melbourne, Australia

A Malthouse Theatre Commission

**Credits:**

Created, Designed and Performed by **My Darling Patricia**

Concept  Sam Routledge  
Writer/Director  Halcyon Macleod  
Design  Clare Britton and Bridget Dolan  
Composer and Sound Designer  Declan Kelly  
Puppets  Bryony Anderson  
Lighting Designer  Lucy Birkinshaw  
Stage Manager  Darren Kowacki  
Props and Set Dressing  Tim Varga-McGaw  
Outside Eyes  Maryanne Lynch & Chris Ryan

Original cast/devisors:  Jodie Le Vesconte, Matt Prest, Clare Britton, Alice Osborne and Sam Routledge.  
Additional Devisors  Katrina Gill & Tamara Rewse


*Africa* will be on tour nationally in 2011 with Mobile States.
“A stunning work ... One of the achievements of Africa is its emotional honesty: how it at once expresses human resilience — the ability to generate beauty from the “rag and bone shop of the heart” — and the incorrigibility of damage and loss. Realised with an admirable skill, it’s funny, beautiful and heartbreaking. Beg, borrow or steal a ticket to this one.”
Alison Croggon, The Australian

“Africa is a beautiful and savage piece of theatre, marrying virtuosic technical accomplishment to an emphatic and ruthlessly observed understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse.”
Cameron Woodhead, The Age