

CONUNDRUM THEATRE

Presents

AN INCOMPLETE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HUGS

Written by
Sarah Peters

Performed by
Claire Glenn

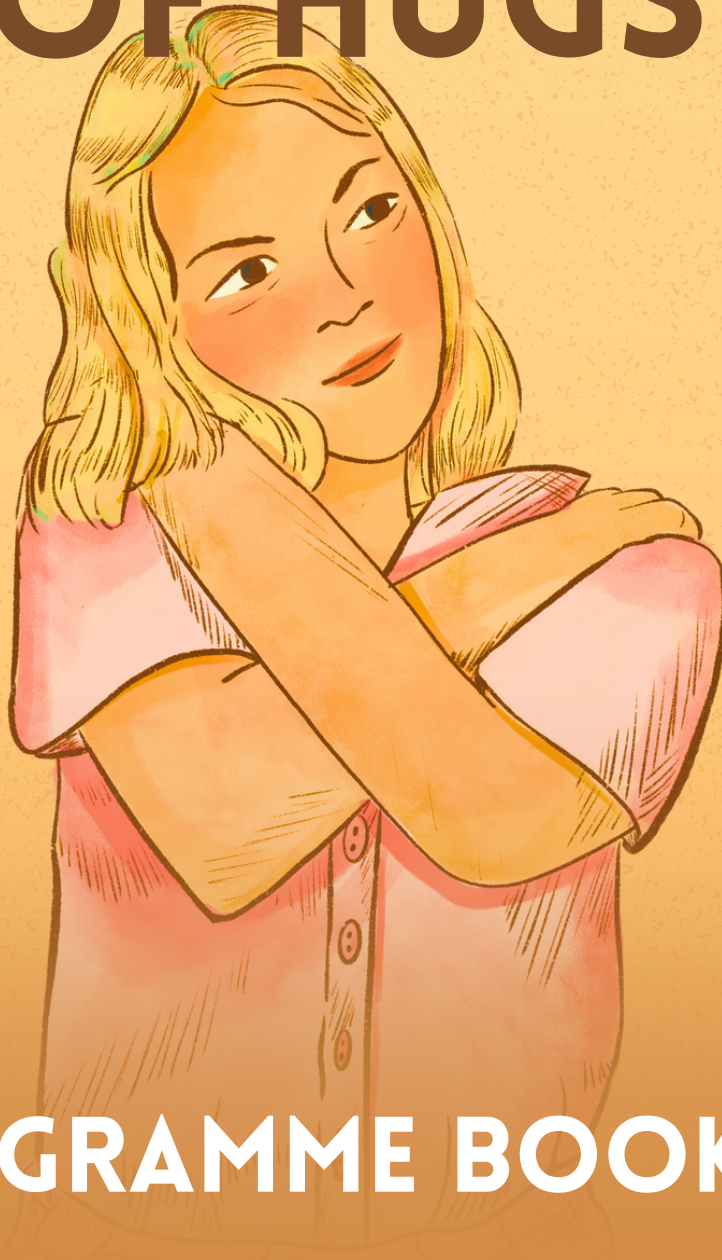


"a deliberately delicate,
delightful journey
through the wonderful
world of hugs"

[The Clothesline]

"This South Australian
play wraps the
audience in its arms"

[InDaily]



PROGRAMME BOOKLET

CONUNDRUM
THEATRE



FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

In so many ways this play is a testament to all the people who create spaces for writers to test out their ideas and share their words. In 2020, Emily Steel curated a series of scratch nights for SA theatre makers called 'The Itch'. One of the stories in this play began life as a 10min sharing of work presented there. Then in 2022, Lucy Combe invited me to share ten minutes of a new play at one of South Australian Playwright Theatre's night of readings. This prompted me to go back to that earlier draft and play around with some of the ideas. Something clicked. I found the rhythm of the piece, I could imagine where to take it beyond that 10mins, and the audience response was encouraging. It lit a fire for me. The play was further developed for a 20min reading at the Fringe in 2023 with support from Assemblage Centre for Creative Arts, then a week in Singapore at Conundrum Theatre with Claire Glenn truly brought the play to life.

I am entirely humbled by the love the creative team has given this play. It is such a gift to have other people care about your words. To give their time and creativity to bringing them to life, and this play wouldn't exist without the support of each of these people (and so many more) along the way.

I think we better add a new hug to the encyclopedia....so, Hug number 98, the 'there-aren't-enough-words-to-express-just-how-brilliant-and-kind-and-clever-you-all-are-and-how-much-I-have-loved-working-with-you-and-think-you're-glorious,-so-lets-do-this-again-soon' hug.

Thank you for being here, it is such a joy to share this work with you!

SARAH PETERS
FEBRUARY 2025

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Care: a term replete with significance, serving as both a noun and a verb. As a noun, it encompasses the provision of what is essential for the health, welfare, maintenance, and protection of someone or something. As a verb, it denotes the act of looking after and providing for the needs of others.

In the creation of this new work, due care has been a paramount focus. Care in the written and spoken word, care for one another within the creative process, care in sharing our personal stories connected to the themes and narratives within, care in telling the story, and finally, care for the audience experience.

We extend an invitation to you to find comfort in this intimate space. Be who you need to be in this moment, and thank you for coming.

ELIZA LOVELL
FEBRUARY 2025

ABOUT CONUNDRUM THEATRE

Conundrum Theatre provides unique, nurturing and inclusive classes, workshops, and life changing projects for children and young people aged between 5 and 25.

We believe that children learn by doing and our workshops and theatre projects empower them to develop skills in performance and theatre making, while giving them the space to be creative, express their views, learn about the world and themselves, forge long lasting friendships and devise original pieces of theatre.

For more information go to **whataconundrum.com**





CAST & CREATIVES

Writer

Sarah Peters

Director

Eliza Lovell

Performer

Claire Glenn

Producers

Claire Glenn & Eliza Lovell

Designer

Bianka Kennedy

Sound Design

Sascha Budimski

Adelaide Stage Manager

Taia Doyle

& Technical Operator

Singapore Stage Manager

Anthony Kelly

& Technical Operator

Graphic Design

Kimberly Sim

& Social media

SARAH PETERS

Playwright

Sarah has Hebrew origins and means 'princess', or 'noble lady'.



Sarah (she/her) is a playwright and Senior Lecturer in Drama specialising in verbatim theatre and community-engaged theatre making. She has written for STCSA and ActNow Theatre's 2020 Ruby Award winning project *Decameron 2.0*, Prospect Theatre for Young People's 2022 *Stuck for Adelaide* Fringe and Theatre Republic's 2023 *Future:Present* project. Her verbatim plays (published online with Australian Plays Transform) engage with communities to tell the shared stories of experience, such as women living with *Alopecia in bald heads & blue stars* (2014), young people navigating mental health and wellbeing in *twelve2twentyfive* (2015) growing up in rural communities in *Eternity* (2017) and pilgrims on the Camino de Santiago looking for belonging in *Blister* (2019).

Her research investigates collaborative theatre making processes within an ethic of care, playwriting based on lived experiences, and dramaturgies of theatre. Her co-authored monograph, *Verbatim Theatre Methodologies for Community-Engaged Practice* was published with Routledge in 2023.

ELIZA LOVELL

Director

Eliza is from the Hebrew name, Elisheva meaning 'unique, precious, pledged to God and joyful'.



Eliza is a performer (stage & screen), Teaching Artist, Audio Describer & Intimacy Consultant and is a graduate of Flinders University of South Australia; Drama Centre (BA Hons Drama – First class 1992). Eliza's diverse arts practice utilises Community and Cultural Development principles, advocacy and public pedagogy across the arts & culture sector including education (Arts Education) & health (Arts in Health, Aging & Disability).

Recent directing credits includes: For DreamBIG Children's Festival, Perspective (ExpressWAY Arts) & Co-Investigator's of Series with the Australian Science and Maths (ASMS) school. Eliza was the Acting Coach for The New Boy (Dir: Warwick Thornton); and Intimacy Coach for, Screen: Royal Flying Doctors (RFDS), JIMPA, Ladies in Black & With or Without You, Theatre: Così Fan Tutte (State Opera), The Questions (State Theatre) and Private View (Restless Dance Theatre).

CLAIRE GLENN

Performer

Claire is of French origin, and means 'clear,' 'bright,' or 'light-colored.' The word can also be a noun meaning 'light,' as in the phrase clair de lune ("light of the moon").



Claire Glenn is an award winning Theatre Maker, Youth Arts Practitioner, Director and Actor residing in Singapore. Claire is a passionate advocate for Theatre for Young People and believes that children and young people have an extraordinary capacity for extending their imaginations through play, experimentation and risk taking. Claire sees herself as a conduit for their artistic expression and big thoughts about the world around them. Before moving to Singapore, Claire Glenn was the Artistic Director of South Australian Youth Arts (SAYarts), and Creative Producer for Carclew's ExpressWay Arts.

Claire is a graduate of the University of Otago (New Zealand) Theatre Studies Program and is an experienced theatre performer, having worked in New Zealand, Australia and the UK. She has been nominated and won numerous awards for her performances. Notable roles include Caitlin in *An Air Balloon Across Antarctica* by Darragh Martin, Eve in *Muff*, Her in *Notoriously Yours*, and Xavie in *Late Night Story*, all by Van Badham. In the course of her career, Claire has worked with STCSA, Malthouse Theatre, *On Invisible Wings*, *Sixxters Grimm*, *Three To A Room* and *five.point.one*.

BIANKA KENNEDY

Production Design

Bianka has Italian, French and Germanic roots and means 'white, pure and clarity'; as well as being an Hungarian grape variety.



Bianka Kennedy (she/her) is a multidisciplinary artist on Kaurna Yerta who works across stage, screen, gallery and classroom. She has won awards for both visual art and theatre designs that are industry examples of integrating accessibility into the design, fabrication and exhibition of art experiences.

Bianka has held Head of Prop Making Department roles for screen works, has lectured in the creative industries division of Adelaide College of the Arts, is Co-Founder of Kinetik Collective, mentors new designers and operates a workshop from the acclaimed Fab studios, a hub for metal fabrication, engineering and public art. Collaborators and clients include Warner Brothers, Windmill Theatre, Windmill Picture + ABC, Patch Theatre, State Theatre Company of South Australia, DreamBig Festival, BBC Studios + HVK World, Crossover (London) + Adelaide Fringe, Largent Studio (New York) + FOMO, SA Water, SA Tourism Commission and SA Power Networks.

SASCHA BUDIMSKI

Sound Design

Sascha means 'defender' or 'protector of humankind'.



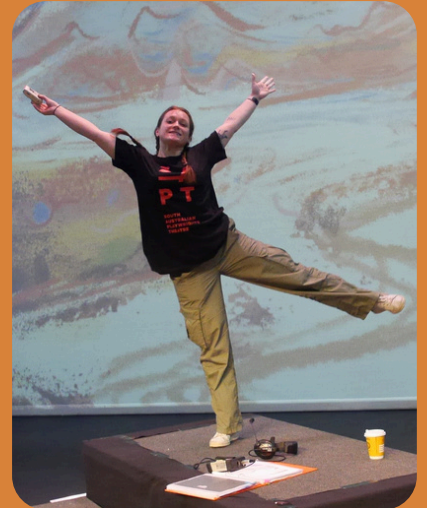
Sascha developed his interest in sound art and electronic music whilst studying dance at the Adelaide College of the Arts and is heavily drawn to designing and creating sound for theatre, dance and art installations. Sascha is also a qualified sound engineer, completing a Diploma of Music Industry at the School of Audio Engineering (SAE) in Adelaide where he developed a love for recording, mixing and collaborating with bands and musicians. Works featuring his sound design have received various awards and nominations, including several Australian Dance Awards, Ruby Awards, South Australian Small Screen Awards and Performing Arts WA Awards.

In recent years, Sascha's work has received international attention with works featuring his sound being presented in Germany, Spain, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.

TAIA DOYLE

Stage Manager

Taia is of ancient Indian origin and means 'light'.



Taia is a graduate of Flinders University, completing her Bachelor of Media Arts, and Honours Degree in Media & Enterprise in 2021. She began working on productions in high school, stage managing the school musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. From there, she went on to study Live Production at Adelaide College of the Arts before continuing on to University. She has experience working at events all across Australia as audio visual crew, along with being involved in local productions such as Marie Clarke's *Jekyll & Hyde*. For SAPT she was the production assistant and lighting operator for the original production of *The Deep North* for the 2021 Adelaide Fringe Festival. She then worked as Stage and Technical Manager for *The Deep North* in 2022 at the Adelaide Festival Centre and on tour across regional SA and Stage Manager. In 2023 she stage managed *Recalibrate* at ILA.



THANK YOU

Arts South Australia

Conundrum Theatre:

Kimberly Sim, Alex Kong, Anthony Kelly, Zo Tan.

Goodwood Theatres and Studio:

Simone Avramidis and Chris Iley.

South Australian Playwrights Theatre

Vitalstatistix

Restless Theatre

Anna Parr