



# Whoosh!

## Sensorium Theatre

## Marketing Pack

“The company has a wonderful rapport with their audiences and meets every individual right where they are”  
– Peg Schuler-Armstrong, Lincoln Center Education

Produced by Performing Lines WA

Contact: Rachael Whitworth

[rachael@performinglineswa.org.au](mailto:rachael@performinglineswa.org.au)

08 9200 6213

Level 1, King St Arts Centre, Murray St, Perth  
[performinglines.org.au](http://performinglines.org.au)

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## Key Contacts | Performing Lines

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**Senior Producer**

Rachael Whitworth

[rachael@performinglineswa.org.au](mailto:rachael@performinglineswa.org.au)

tel: +618 9200 6213

**Production Manager**

Liz Young

[production@performinglines.org.au](mailto:production@performinglines.org.au)

tel: +612 9319 0066

**Marketing Coordinator**

Cecile Lucas

[cecile@performinglineswa.org.au](mailto:cecile@performinglineswa.org.au)

tel: +618 9200 6232

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## About the Show

*WHOOSH!* is an immersive work that puts children with disabilities at the centre of action. Kids board a stunning custom-built spaceship to co-pilot an interstellar adventure.

New recruits take up their own tech stations, taste real space food, propel through hyperdrive, crash-land and explore a strange uncharted planet. Characters and audience work as a team to repair the ship and return to Earth. This highly-tailored production is suitable for children with a broad range of access needs aged 6 – 12, including those with multiple and complex needs and those on the autism spectrum.

With an impressive set and pioneering use of technology, including a new digital app to deliver pre-show materials, this is Sensorium Theatre's most ambitious production to date. Developed over three years, we've refined our delivery model to increase audience agency and overall capacity while maintaining intimate session sizes.

## About the Company

**Sensorium Theatre**, created in 2007 by co-Artistic Directors Michelle Hovane and Francis Italiano, is Australia's only company creating work for young audiences with multiple and complex disabilities and those on the autism spectrum.

Based in Perth, Western Australia, we create performances which delight and inspire by creating high quality hands-on theatre that invites children to touch, taste, smell, hear, feel and see stories unfold around them within a specially designed immersive sensory environment. The intentionally small audiences are onstage with the artists who continually adapt their performance to connect with individual learning abilities and communication style of each child. This way, each child becomes an active participant in the storytelling experience.

Our first production *The Jub Jub Tree* toured throughout Western Australia, performing in schools right around the state. We then partnered with Performing Lines WA to create Helpmann Award-nominated production *Oddysea*, which has toured extensively around Australia, including to the Arts Centre Melbourne, DreamBig and Awesome festivals, and to the Sydney Opera House, who hailed the 2015 season as a landmark in accessible programming. In early 2018 we finished creating and piloted new interactive space adventure *Whoosh!*, before touring *Oddysea* to Lincoln Center Education's Big Umbrella Festival in New York and The Artground, Singapore. In addition to performing, we facilitate workshops and professional learning for artists and venues, and run sensory storytelling workshops for parents and educators.

## Creative Team

**Artistic Directors** Michelle Hovane & Francis Italiano

**Assistant Director** Bec Bradley

**Performers** Amity Culver, Jamie David, Michelle Hovane & Francis Italiano,

**Composer/Sound Designer** Jamie David

**Digital & Technology Designer** Steve Berrick

**Set Designer** Matthew McVeigh

**Dramaturg** James Berlyn

**Costume Designer** Cherie Hewson

**Produced by Performing Lines WA**

## Marketing Information & Acknowledgment Requirements

Any variation to the requirements below must be agreed with Performing Lines WA's Producer and Marketing Manager. **All marketing materials available for download from:**

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r3cbmndtkch91qa/AABJRJN\\_CO5gsfnKD8NQE0aga?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r3cbmndtkch91qa/AABJRJN_CO5gsfnKD8NQE0aga?dl=0)

**Billing** <Your Venue>  
presents  
*Whoosh!* by Sensorium Theatre  
Produced by Performing Lines WA

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**Artist Credits** **Artistic Directors** Michelle Hovane & Francis Italiano  
**Assistant Director** Bec Bradley  
**Performers** Amity Culver, Jamie David, Michelle Hovane & Francis Italiano,  
**Composer/Sound Designer** Jamie David  
**Digital & Technology Designer** Steve Berrick  
**Set Designer** Matthew McVeigh  
**Dramaturg** James Berlyn  
**Costume Designer** Cherie Hewson  
**Produced by Performing Lines WA**

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**Short Copy** **Please note:** this is indicative copy only. We will work with your marketing teams to create copy best suited to your presentation context.

Hop on board our spaceship and get ready for blast off! *Whoosh!* is a new interactive multi-sensory adventure that puts children with disabilities in the Captain's Chair!

Created by pioneering theatre makers Sensorium Theatre, this unique performance is suitable for children with a broad range of access needs, including those with multiple and complex needs and those on the autism spectrum.

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**Long Copy** **Please note:** this is indicative copy only. We will work with your marketing teams to create copy best suited to your presentation context.

Hop on board our spaceship and get ready for blast off!

Calling all budding astronauts! Become a pilot, engineer or navigator as we whoosh across the galaxy for an interstellar adventure for the whole family.

Join our crew to explore outer space, taste space food, experience hyperspace and travel all the way to the mysterious Planet X. We'll have to work as a team to repair the ship and return to Earth.

*Whoosh!* is a new interactive multi-sensory adventure that puts children with disabilities in the Captain's Chair! Created by pioneering theatremakers Sensorium Theatre, this unique performance is suitable for children with a broad range of access needs, including those with multiple and complex needs and those on the autism spectrum.

<b>Logos</b>	<p>All logos available from:  <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jxaub7uxiuhkh05/AABLafQOL9SNqaBqJdb66yBma?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jxaub7uxiuhkh05/AABLafQOL9SNqaBqJdb66yBma?dl=0</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensorium Theatre</li> <li>- Performing Lines WA</li> <li>- Australia Council</li> <li>- DLGSCI</li> <li>- Lotterywest</li> <li>- James Galvin Foundation</li> </ul> <p>Logos must be included on all advertising and promotional material associated with the tour and performances of <i>Whoosh!</i> <u>unless explicitly agreed otherwise</u>, including, but not limited to, season brochures, flyers, posters, advertisements, media releases, promotional videos, web pages and programs.</p>
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<p><i>Whoosh!</i> is produced by Sensorium Theatre and supported by: the Australian Government through the Australia Council for the Arts, its arts funding and advisory body; and the WA Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and Lotterywest. This production was made possible with the generous support of the Cassandra Gantner Foundation and the James Galvin Foundation.</p> <p>Acknowledgements must be included in addition to logos where space allows, including, but not limited to, season brochures, flyers, web pages and programs. These should also be acknowledged in speeches and announcements where appropriate.</p>
<b>Images</b>	<p><b>All images available from:</b>  <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/sh/g7ts94shy3vaq3x/AAB7UGSqZZW_VaFlunBREZdCa?dl=0">https://www.dropbox.com/sh/g7ts94shy3vaq3x/AAB7UGSqZZW_VaFlunBREZdCa?dl=0</a></p> <p><b>Hero shot: TBC</b></p> <p><b>Additional Images:</b></p>
<b>Video links</b>	<p><b>TRAILER:</b> <a href="https://vimeo.com/264021969">https://vimeo.com/264021969</a></p> <p><b>FULL LENGTH (NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE):</b> <a href="https://vimeo.com/268526191/af2f94a999">https://vimeo.com/268526191/af2f94a999</a></p>
<b>Duration</b>	60 minutes
<b>Warnings</b>	<p>There are potentially exciting sound and light changes in <i>Whoosh</i> that are announced as part of the show. Children can prepare for these with our digital app. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Blast Off": light fog haze ( non allergenic)</li> <li>- "Emergency Landing" ( slow moving red lights and siren).</li> <li>- Planet X - UV Light and low fog haze.</li> </ul> <p>Children can sample "space food" - a list of ingredients can be provided. Essential oils are diffused in the environment. These can be modified to accommodate allergies.</p>
<b>Age suitability</b>	Recommended for ages 5 - 12

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**Artist Biographies:** for **Francis Italiano | Co-Artistic Director/Performer**

use online, in printed programs, etc

Francis founded Sensorium Theatre with Michelle Hovane in 2010, bringing their unique immersive sensory theatre to thousands of children with disabilities since its inception. Under his direction, Sensorium has spearheaded national discussions around access for additional needs audiences, highlighted by presentations of *Odyssey* at the Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne and 2 Helpmann Award nominations. In this capacity he has facilitated Professional Learning for artists and industry professionals across Australia and internationally, as well as touring *Odyssey* to Lincoln Center Education's Big Umbrella Festival in New York and The Artground, Singapore. Over a 25 year career, particularly as a community artist, he has worked as artistic-director, artist-in-residence and principal artist for numerous arts and cultural institutions. He has worked as a writer/director/designer/performer at festivals across Australia and continued his professional development in this specialized art form by collaborating with global leaders, including Oily Cart, Bamboozle & Punch Drunk (UK) and Teatro de los Sentidos (Spain).

**Michelle Hovane | Co-Artistic Director/Performer**

Michelle is a physical performer, somatic practitioner and co-artistic director of Sensorium Theatre. She is passionate about the transformative potential of the arts and the importance of live storytelling in maintaining human communities. She is a founding member of Sensorium Theatre and has been instrumental in the development of the company and the articulation of the company's methodology. She has been a co-devisor and performer on Sensorium Theatre's current productions *The Jub Jub Tree*, *Odyssey* and, most recently, *Whoosh!* and has led metropolitan, regional and national tours. Over the past 20 years, Michelle has facilitated and performed with many communities of diverse abilities, cultures and identities which gives her a deep ability to tailor each performance to the individuals she encounters.

**Jamie David | Composer/Performer**

Part of the Sensorium team since July 2013, Jamie has an extensive background in composition, performance, songwriting, multi-art-form collaborations and community arts. He composed all the original music for *Odyssey* and performs as a multi-instrumentalist and vocal leader within the show. His personal creative odyssey has included touring internationally with music acts, collaborating in theatrical, circus and dance productions, film soundtrack composition, musical studies in West Africa and Southern India.

**Amity Culver | Performer**

Amity has been performing in the Arts since she could walk and sing. As a performance artist Amity has developed works in local and rural communities across Australia, working predominantly with at risk youth and children with additional needs. Although primarily a dancer, her passion is in combining all artistic genres and creating collaborative works for children with additional needs in a holistic and healing environment. A member of Sensorium Theatre since 2013, Amity has been involved in regional, metropolitan and national tours where she enjoys performing, conducting student centered workshops and facilitating professional developments with the team.

**Matthew McVeigh** is an inter-disciplinary artist that's practice mainly focuses on sculpture, community art and design for theatre. Since graduating from the WA Academy of Performing Arts (Performance Design 2008), Matt has worked as a theatre designer for Steamworks Art Productions, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, Deckchair Theatre, WA Youth Theatre, Yirra Yaakkin Aboriginal Theatre, Lark Chamber Opera, Lost and Found Opera, Western Australian Ballet, Awesome Arts, Performing Lines, Ochre Dance Company and a number of independent

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dancers. He has been an assistant designer on productions for the Australian Ballet, Victorian Opera and Big Hart. Matt has also worked across the state as a community artist creating context-specific projects that engage with the social and environmental situation of the community he is working with. His visual art work has featured in numerous group exhibitions nationally and features in private collections both locally and internationally. Matt is represented by Linton and Kay Gallery where he has exhibited his solo exhibitions MINE and BUILT.

**Steve Berrick** is an artist and creative coder. His works are software driven experiences for interactive systems and performance; sometimes visual; sometimes aural; sometimes informative. He enjoys process, collaboration and presenting projects to audiences in galleries, theatres, museums and the street. Steve is an artist with the ololo art collective, Graffiti Research Lab Perth and an associate artist with pvi collective.

**James Berlyn** is an award-winning performing artist and lecturer of more than twenty five years' experience, and Artistic Director of WA Youth Theatre Company. Trained in dance at VCA, he has worked in dance, performance, theatre and community art across Australia and the world. His recent work includes: *I Know (You're There)* (Performing Lines WA), *You Once Said Yes* (Perth Festival), *Crash Course* (Performing Lines WA), *Dreamstore* (Performing Lines WA), *Tenebrae et Lux* (Perth Festival), *Variant* (Sue Healey) and Matthew Lutton's *Elektra* (Perth Festival/WA Opera). He is the founder of Proximity Festival, a founding co-director of Tracksuit, and is WA's only accredited trainer for Ausdance's Skill Set facilitator and assessor.

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### Performing Lines WA | Producing Transformative Performance

Performing Lines WA produces new and transformative performance, creating pathways for innovative artists whose work pushes boundaries and sparks new conversations.

Over our 10 years in WA and 35 years nationally, we have collaborated with arts companies, producers, presenters and funders to bring about creative and strategic opportunities for some of WA's most exciting and diverse contemporary artists and performances.

### Stay Connected

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