The Package
By Packed Theatre

Artist credit: Packed Theatre. Image credit: Anna Cadden.

PRESENTER’S INFORMATION

The Package has been proudly supported in its development by:

[Logos of various sponsors]
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMPANY PROFILE</td>
<td>p. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABOUT THE SHOW</td>
<td>p. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>p. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOGRAPHIES</td>
<td>p. 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS</td>
<td>pp. 5 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT</td>
<td>pp. 7 - 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARKETING</td>
<td>pp. 9 - 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRODUCTION DETAILS</td>
<td>pp. 15 - 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONTACTS</td>
<td>p. 18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMPANY PROFILE
Packed Theatre is an ensemble of Alice Springs artists creating works of magical realism and wonder for all ages. Using the ‘language’ of puppetry, physical theatre, animation and music, they tell stories without any spoken words, taking their audiences on surreal and soulful journeys, described as “playful”, “joyous”, “mesmerising”, “enchanting” and “deeply moving”.

Griffin, Schubert & Hoad began collaborating in 2014. Their first collective work, The Package, is based on Griffin’s original concept, inspired by her experience as a medical intern dealing with the deaths of elderly patients in hospital. Together, the team have created a soulful and surreal journey that addresses socially-hidden subjects with beauty, humour and great heart.

The team has a passion for community engagement through the arts and have worked with young people, senior people, Indigenous and CALD communities. They use skills in community development and workshop facilitation to create fun, meaningful experiences beyond the show itself.

ABOUT THE SHOW
Beneath a projected window of animated stars, an old woman hobbles across the stage. Frail and alone, even getting into her rickety bed is difficult. Just as she finally gets comfortable, she’s confronted by medical staff, who push, shove and spin her around, whipping her through a battery of measurements before marching out. Our old woman can do nothing but retreat under her blanket and fall asleep. Then, strangely, she is visited by a dark, beautiful, comical bird, trying to deliver a mysterious package ... then more arrive!

Fearing the unknown, she struggles with the packages, refusing to accept them. Who are they from? What could be inside? Finally, one at a time their contents are revealed. They are memories: tender, playful, poignant, surreal and wonderful memories. As she opens each package we take an extraordinary journey with her through love, loss, joy, despair and wonder. Then the final package arrives: will it contain the ultimate gift?

Combining puppetry, physical theatre, animation and mask, The Package rides an enchanting musical score to tell its story without any words. It moves between poignancy and belly-laughing happiness with ease and in a way that anyone can understand. Full of rich imagery, each individual can layer the scenes with meaning from their own imagination and experience. Audiences are treated as equals, as children and adults have a precious opportunity to engage with the big questions of life, death, old-age, love & loss through the poetry of theatre.

Somewhere between a well-loved picture book and a dream, ‘The Package’ reaches across ages and languages, straight to the heart, reminding us that no matter how old we are, the theatre – and life itself – is still full of magic.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Original concept: Katelnd Griffin Co-devised with Kristy Schubert and Robbie Hoad
Performers: Katelnd Griffin, Kristy Schubert and Robbie Hoad
Animations: Katelnd Griffin and Conor Fox
Puppet Construction: Katelnd Griffin, Robbie Hoad, Conor Fox, J9 Stanton, Andrew Cook, Sarah Cook: assistance from Dan Goronszy and Karen Hethey
Original Score: Joaquin Hourbeigt, Robbie Hoad, Annie Pfeiffer, Xavia Nou, Pin Rada, Katelnd Griffin and Kristy Schubert
Set Design: Kristy Schubert, Robbie Hoad and Katelnd Griffin
Costume Design: Katelnd Griffin and Robbie Hoad
Lighting Design: Robbie Hoad

BIOGRAPHIES: KEY ARTISTS

Katelnd Griffin (Co-devisor / Performer):
Katelnd Griffin studied writing and directing film at Griffith Film School and AFTRS, Sydney. She has directed short theatre and circus and performed in music, theatre, cabaret, burlesque, circus, physical theatre and puppetry. She has created performance work for Alice Desert Festival, Cat’s Meow Cabaret, Cats Meow Burlesque, Tassie Circus Festival, Wide Open Space Festival, Circus Dust, Bite Size Theatre 2011 and 24hr Theatre 2013. She has written and directed two short animations using a light-box technique she developed and has written and co-directed two professional clay-mations which were commissioned for broadcast. The Package combines some of her strongest skills in a single hybrid work co-devised with Kristy Schubert and Robbie Hoad.

Kristy Schubert (Co-devisor / Performer)
Kristy Schubert trained with Honours in theatre and creative writing at Flinders University. She is an award-winning dramatist, writer and poet, and she performs as an actor, singer, dancer and puppeteer. Kristy’s created and performed in work for the Darwin Festival, Alice Desert Festival, Wide Open Space Festival, Peats Ridge Festival, Cat’s Meow Cabaret and many other community-based projects and events. A trained actor and dancer, her affinity for puppetry has seen her work as a professional puppeteer in Under Today (2012), Book of Shadows (2014), Woodford Folk Festival (2015) and The Package. Also a community worker, Kristy has used the arts to help disenfranchised communities express their own capacity for solutions. With her belief that stories can transform and heal us, she is honoured to be part of The Package as it travels and grows.

Robbie Hoad (Co-devisor / Performer)
Robbie’s numerous appointments include actor, director, writer, dramaturge, educator, producer, filmmaker, workshop facilitator, composer, musician, event coordinator, master of ceremonies, stage manager and intercultural liaison. He’s won a variety of awards across several disciplines including poetry, comedy, acting, filmmaking, puppet construction and songwriting. Rob regularly travels interstate and overseas from his Northern Territory base to perform, teach and create new work. With a performance career now spanning three decades, the works are too numerous to list! He studied Educational Theatre Arts at Adelaide University and, together with Kristy Schubert, runs the Totem Youth Theatre in Alice Springs, which they co-founded in 2014. Trained in Forum and Playback Theatre and with extensive experience facilitating arts programs in communities, Robbie is passionate about engaging people outside the theatre walls in dynamic, immersive and potentially transformative experiences.
PERFORMANCE SPECIFICS

DURATION
Full Show: 60 minutes, no interval
Excerpt with workshop: approx. 90 min but flexible

SUITABLE VENUES
We are flexible with venues, with experience scaling the show for small to large staged theatres. We can perform in:

- proscenium arch
- black box theatres
- school or town halls
- cultural facilities

Options:
- full show (standard)
- full show (with live musicians)
- excerpt with workshop

Full Show (standard): Venue features required:
- ability to darken the space to see projections
- wings OR ability to mask at least one side of stage
- existing rigged projector (min. 4k lumens, brighter preferred)
  OR ability to rig one we provide (and safely run lead to image source)
- existing projection screen able to be hung at least 0.9m from the rear wall (screen size min. 4m x 3m, larger preferred)
  OR ability to rig one we provide
- PA to play our soundtrack (we can provide a PA if necessary)

Full Show (with live musicians): Venue features required:
- Same as full show standard PLUS a mixing desk (min. 8 channels) and fold-back speaker (we can provide these if necessary)

Excerpt with Workshop: Venue features
- Very flexible. Does not require any of the above, except for a mic and PA (we can provide these if necessary)

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PERFORMANCES PER WEEK
12 performances

MINIMUM BREAK BETWEEN PERFORMANCES
30 minutes
LICENCING AGREEMENTS
Copyright to this show is owned by the performers. No rights need to be paid

APRA OBLIGATIONS
Composers are currently refining our original score, due for completion as a mastered track in June 2017. They plan to register it with APRA as a single piece, attracting a licence fee of 6.60% (6.00% + GST) of gross box office takings.

TOURING PERSONNEL
The touring party consists of 3 people.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katelnd Griffin</td>
<td>Performer, Co-Producer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristy Schubert</td>
<td>Performer, Co-Producer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbie Hoad</td>
<td>Performer, Tour Manager</td>
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PERFORMANCE HISTORY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Number of performances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Totem Theatre, Alice Springs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Araluen Arts Centre, Alice Springs</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Brown’s Mart Theatre, Darwin</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Bakehouse Theatre, Adelaide</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

OVERVIEW
As well as creating beautiful shows, Packed Theatre members are passionate about community engagement through the arts. We have experience facilitating programs across a broad range of ages, cultural identities and with people who speak minimal English.

In the lead up to the show, we'd like to run 'workshops-with-a-purpose' in the community, inviting young people (schools) and older people (senior groups) along at the same time.

Community engagement options and opportunities:

1) The Memory Post (show excerpt with facilitated workshop):

   Connection to the show's themes:
   - We can use our memories — even the tough ones — to help us feel connected to a shared sense of humanity and a meaningful life
   - Our society and its institutions isolate people as they grow old, often treating them as 'empty lumps of flesh.' We want to remember our shared humanity: every young person contains the seed of their older self and every older person contains the resonances of every age they've ever been

   Objectives of the workshop:
   - That young people and older people get to spend meaningful time together as they 'unpack' and 'deliver' memories to each other

2) Bringing Things to Life
   (show excerpt with facilitated workshop or short residency):

   Connection to the show:
   - The Package includes a several kinds of puppetry: using every-day objects, hand-held puppets and shadow
   - Without any words, the show creates a wide range of moods

   Objectives of the workshop / residency:
   - Teaching participants how to bring inanimate objects to life (character, breath, intention, relationships, dramatic symbol)
   - Exploring creating mood and atmosphere (continuity vs contrast and juxtaposition)

3) All shows: The Memory Post (a take-away activity, given to all audience members as they leave the show)

   Connection to show's themes: our memories are a key to remaining connected to ourselves and each other
   - Objectives: nurture connectedness by sending someone a memory
DESCRIPTION / DETAILS

Workshop durations: approx. 90min but flexible

Ongoing residency option: Either workshop 1) or 2) can be delivered as a one-off or as an ongoing residency. Residencies can be used to build the participants' work into public showings.

Participants need to bring: themselves! (and a willingness to participate). For option 2) Bringing Things to Life: bring a cardboard box each

What participants achieve:

1) The Memory Post:
   ● skills in reflective listening
   ● experience with Forum and Playback theatre, using physical performance as a form of reflective listening
   ● if older and younger people combine in the workshop: experience connecting with people of vastly different ages

2) Bringing Stuff to Life:
   ● skills in endowing an object with character, breath, intention, relationship and dramatic symbol
   ● skills exploring dramatic mood, contrast and juxtaposition
   ● if older and younger people combine in the workshop: experience connecting with people of vastly different ages

3) Post-Show Memory Post (end of show: not a workshop in itself):
   ● the option to nurture connectedness through good old snail mail!

COST
We can run workshops as part of our weekly fee.
Every participant and audience member will get a postcard (artwork provided). These can be printed very cheaply through places like VistaPrint (e.g. $320 for 1500 postcards, including envelopes = approx. $0.22 each)

TARGET AUDIENCE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Target audience for workshops: school age participants and seniors
Experience required: all levels, from beginner to experienced
Reaching audience: invitations to schools, seniors clubs, nursing homes
We can provide:
   ● invitation artwork
   ● poster artwork
   ● flyer artwork
   ● email copy
   ● email-friendly flyer artwork
   ● workshop info
   ● teacher pack (due mid-Feb 2017)
MARKETING

MARKETING COPY

One line:
Mysterious packages help an old woman defy loneliness.

Short:
Can mysterious packages help an old woman defy loneliness?

Combining puppetry, physical theatre, animation and mask, ‘The Package’ rides a musical score to tell a soulful story without any words. Children and adults are treated as equals, engaging with the big questions of life, death, love & loss through the poetry of theatre.

Like a well-loved picture book, ‘The Package’ is an enchanting experience for all ages, reminding us that no matter how old we are, the theatre – and life itself – is full of magic.

Extended:
Can mysterious packages help an old woman defy loneliness?

Alone but for her bed and window of animated stars, a frail old woman is rushed through medical examinations then abandoned again. As she retreats into sleep, she’s visited by a strange, comical bird, delivering a mysterious package ... then more arrive! Will she accept them? What could be inside? Could they help her feel less alone?

Combining puppetry, physical theatre, animation and mask, ‘The Package’ rides a musical score to tell a soulful story without any words. Children and adults are treated as equals, engaging with the big questions of life, death, love & loss through the poetry of theatre.

Like a well-loved picture book, ‘The Package’ is an enchanting experience for all ages, reminding us that no matter how old we are, the theatre – and life itself – is full of magic.

From audiences:
- “Mesmerising & Captivating. Bravo.”
- “An exquisite integration of theatre, animation, puppetry and story”
- “No dialogue! But the show said it all.”
- “Visually stunning. Unfailingly graceful.”
- “Captivating for everyone: from babes to grandparents”
- “There should be more shows like this”

The Package
About Packed Theatre:
Packed Theatre is an ensemble of Alice Springs artists creating works of magical realism and wonder for all ages.

Griffin, Schubert & Hoad began collaborating in 2014. Their first collective work, *The Package*, is based on Griffin’s original concept, inspired by her experience as a medical intern dealing with the deaths of elderly patients in hospital. Together, the team have taken this inspiration and created a show that addresses socially hidden subjects with beauty, humour and great heart.

With a passion for community engagement through the arts, the team work with young people, senior people, Indigenous and CALD communities, using skills in community development and workshop facilitation to create fun, meaningful experiences beyond the show itself.

MARKETING SUMMARY

**Target audiences:** all ages

**Notes:** The show has been very well received by:
- adults of all ages (20s – 80s)
- families with young children
- health care workers
- soon-to-be or recent mothers or people who have lost a child
- anyone who feels a strong connection with an elderly person
- anyone who has recently lost a loved, elderly person

**Possible target locations for posters / flyers:**
- childcare centres
- centres with midwives
- birthing / birth-and-beyond centres
- pre-natal and natal units
- nursing homes
- seniors clubs
- palliative care centres
- funeral homes
- any health-care centres
- schools

**Past successes:**
Success with audiences has been boosted by:
- strong social media campaigns, including work-in-progress images, short videos of the show and short interviews with artists
- performing short excerpts for older people, palliative care nurses and other health care workers
AUDIENCE REVIEWS

- “Mesmerising & Captivating. Bravo.”
- “An exquisite integration of theatre, animation, puppetry and story”
- “No dialogue! But the show said it all.”
- “Visually stunning and unfailingly graceful.”
- “Allegorical, poetic, spellbinding and world-class”
- “Captivating for everyone: from babes to grandparents”
- “A beautiful portrayal of a life well lived, and ultimately a story of resolving our lives”
- “There should be more shows like this”

COLLEAGUE RECOMMENDATIONS

"The Package is truly a compelling work, rich in subject, varied in tone and theatrical elements. Quality abounds. The show not only charmed me: it stirred me deeply. I can imagine it being ‘unpackaged’ in multiple venues, intimate and grand, for a variety of audiences. And I can see their faces already, smiling with delight, swept up in the magic."
   – Dani Powell, 0439 005 316

"On the whole, the impression I got was one of balance and clarity … and what mysterious quality of puppetry is it that causes an inanimate face to somehow express not only sadness and yearning, but so much wonderment and quiet joy as well? This is a warm, polished, authentic piece of theatre that’s a precious gift to all who witness it. May there be many more who do."
   – Tamlyn Lee Magee, 0411 101 168

"It’s been exciting to see this team of regional artists evolve 'The Package' into an independent contemporary Australian production equal in quality to their national peers and worthy of presentation at regional, national and international festivals."
   – Karen Hethey, hethey@tpg.com.au

VIDEO LINKS

Online promo video: https://vimeo.com/189922863
Broadcast footage is available.

MARKETING MATERIALS

We can supply artwork (electronic files) for:
- Posters
- Postcards
- Flyers

We can supply or capture TVC or web quality footage for:
- Promotional video (can edit to between 15 – 90 seconds)
- Behind the scenes images
- Behind the scenes interviews
The long, slow ascent
(animation still)
This image has been used for promotional posters and postcards.
Artist credit: Packed Theatre.
Image credit: Katelnd Griffin

An old woman is alone, with nothing but a blanket for company.
Artist credit: Packed Theatre.
Image credit: Anna Cadden

Abrupt, ridiculous medical visits are her only human contact.
Artist credit: Packed Theatre.
Image credit: Anna Cadden

Then, strangely, she is visited by a dark but comical bird who delivers her a mysterious package.
Artist credit: Packed Theatre
Image credit: Anna Cadden
Suddenly, there's an onslaught of packages! She struggles against them, fearing the unknown.  
Artist credit: Packed Theatre  
Image credit: Stephen Pearce

What could be inside?  
Artist credit: Packed Theatre  
Image credit: Stephen Pearce

Memories: many, many living memories ... tender, playful, poignant, surreal and wonderful.  
Image credits: Anna Cadden, Stephen Pearce
As she opens each package, we take the journey with her. Then the final package arrives. What will be inside? Will it contain the ultimate gift?

Artist credit: Packed Theatre
Image credit: Stephen Pearce

These and other high-resolution images are available by request via Dropbox or Google Drive link.

CONTENT WARNINGS
Suggested rating: PG
Content warning: strong themes; nude 'puppets'

We have a scene that playfully depicts romance. It references youthful attraction using nude costumes where the body parts are cartoonish, effectively made of lycra and bean-bag filler (very bouncy!) and they greatly augment the male genitalia and female breasts. The scene is innocent and comical, and so far has been well received by all ages. In another scene, a shadow puppet gives birth.

Themes of old age, institutionalisation, mental health, grief, loss and death are explored, as are love, memories and tenderness.

TEACHER’S RESOURCES
Teachers resources due to be ready mid-Feb 2017

SPONSOR OR OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Package has been proudly supported in its development by:

(Hi-Res logos available on request)
PRODUCTION DETAILS

TECHNICAL SUMMARY
AV: Forward or rear projection is a vital aspect of this show. A large screen (at least 4x3m) is required and strong projector 4k+ Lumens. We can bring a screen and projector if the venue does not have one in-house. Due to the projections, a venue that can have total blackout is great but not essential.

LIGHTING: 2 main lighting states dominate: A clinical white state from front and overhead lighting and a softer dream-like state (blue tops and warm front wash) plus side-lights if possible. There are 3-5 specials which are tight spots lighting specific areas.

SOUND: The show rides the soundtrack so a good PA is important. We can bring this if venue does not have one in-house. The soundtrack is a single pre-recorded track (1 cue) and can be used to run Q-lab lighting cues. Alternatively, the the show can be up-scaled to include 3 live musicians who play on-stage, requiring a foldback speaker and an 8-channel mixer (we can provide both).

EXAMPLE SCHEDULE
AS 3-HANDER (standard):
9am: Rig projection screen and focus projector + roll in set
10am: Focus lights with actors placing set for specials etc.
11am: Top and tail scenes and plot lights
1pm: Lunch
2pm: If necessary, complete top and tail plot
4-5pm: Tech/dress

IF UP-SCALED TO 6-HANDER (3 performers, 3 musicians)
9am: Rig projection screen and focus projector + roll in set
10am: Focus lights with actors placing set for specials etc.
11am: Musicians bump-in and soundcheck.
1pm: Lunch
2pm: Top and tail scenes and plot lights.
4-5pm: Tech/dress

CREW REQUIRED FROM VENUE
Number of crew required from venue: 1 tech
Skills required: operating lighting desk and AV
Time required: If venue has the desired requirements, we can achieve same day bump, tech and open. If we need to supply items, bump and tech may take longer.
STAGE
There is a hospital bed and a hospital screen on castor wheels and several cardboard boxes containing puppets and props. In larger venues, cardboard boxes have been flown but this is not essential. Minimum stage width: 7 metres, min. depth: 6 metres. Wings or black drapes are needed to mask entrances and exits. In a space without wings (e.g. a hall), we need extra depth so changes, entrances and exits can occur behind the projection screen. A large screen (at least 4 X 3 metres) at the rear of the stage.

Packed Theatre to supply:
- All sets, props, costumes and puppets
- Cue sheet with LX and AV cues marked against the action
- Q-Lab file with LX and AV cues marked against our original score.
- We can supply projector, screen & PA if venues do not have them

Venue to supply:
For full show (standard):
- at least one winged / masked side of stage
- stage masked at rear, at least 0.9m from rear wall
- Projector (min. 4k lumens)
  OR rigging points for projector we supply
- Projection screen (min. 4m x 3m) that can be rigged at rear of stage
  OR ability rigging points to hang one we supply
- PA (if unavailable, we can supply)
- Lighting rig and desk

For full show (with live musicians)
- as above PLUS
- mixing desk (8 channel minimum) and foldback speaker
  (if venues do not have these, we can supply them)

For workshops:
- just a PA and microphone
  (if venues do not have these, we can supply them)

LIGHTING
2 main lighting states dominate: A clinical white state from front and overhead lighting and a softer dream-like state with more side-lights. There are 3-5 specials which are tight spots lighting specific areas. There are also torches and a small desk lamp.

Packed Theatre to supply
- Torches and desk lamp (tagged)
- It is possible for us to provide a small portable lighting rig if the venue is not a theatre

Venue to supply
- All lighting (desk and basic rig)
- Tech who can operate lights
- OR inform us well ahead that we need to supply our own

The Package
SOUND
The show rides the soundtrack, so a good PA is important. We can bring this if venue does not have one in-house. The soundtrack is a single pre-recorded track (1 cue) and can be used to run Q-lab lighting cues. Alternatively (at more cost) the show can have up to 3 live musicians who play on-stage requiring a foldback speaker and an 8-channel mixer (we can provide both).

Packed Theatre to supply
- Recording of original score (full show standard)
- PA system if there are none in-house
- For full show with live musicians: instruments, foldback and 8-channel mixer

Venue to supply
- PA
- Same tech can operate sound and lights

AV
Forward or rear projection is a vital aspect of this show. A large screen (at least 4x3m) is required and strong projector (min. 4k+ Lumens). We can bring a screen and projector if the venue does not have one in-house. Due to the projections, a venue that can have total blackout is great but not essential.

Packed Theatre to supply
- We can provide projection screen and projector if needed

Venue to supply
- Projector and screen if possible
- Same tech can operation lights, sound and AV

WARDROBE
Quick changes on both sides of the stage with 2 actors changing several times.

Packed Theatre to supply
- All costumes, masks etc.

Venue to supply
- 2 X clothes racks or similar
- 1 dressing room
- No washing machine needed.

FREIGHT NOTES
If the company has enough time between locations, we can travel in our own vehicle and bring all touring elements in our own trailer. We’ll need space to park the vehicle-with-trailer as close to the theatre as possible to unload.

If we need to fly between locations, touring elements will need to be freighted.
CONTACTS

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