



ASEEL TAYAH – LULLABIES UNDER THE STARS

PRESENTER PACK

Current at 5 August 2019

Check again for updates 31 August 2019

ARTISTIC STATEMENT

Presenting itself as a short (50 mins) diversion for very young children, *Lullabies* is actually an occasion for young parents to share a key family ritual as a group. In the final movement of the piece where lullabies are shared, we have seen and heard parents sing to their children in Hindi, Fijian, and a hilarious nonsense-English; we've shared spontaneous singalongs, learnt snippets of Japanese together, and shared these intimate and vulnerable expressions of maternity/paternity in a unique moment.

Lullabies is about your community meeting each other and celebrating its own diversity. And in transforming the simple act of singing to your child into a powerful ritual it elevates young parenthood, which can feel like a chore to say the least, into an exclusive, affirming, privilege.

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MARKETING

CREDITS

Lullabies Under the Stars

Conceived and directed by Aseel Tayah. Featuring (cast tbc), Max Schollar-Root, Mahmoud Salameh and the children of (venue).

Lullabies Under the Stars was seeded by City of Melbourne through Artplay's New Ideas Lab.

BLURBS

50 WORDS

The stars are no longer twinkling in the sky and we need your help to sing them back to shine more brightly than ever.

In this participatory performance, families connect across cultures through the simple beauty of lullabies. Children dance, sing, and play in a magical, twilight-inspired installation space.

Performed in Arabic, First Nations Australian languages, and English.

هذا العرض التفاعلي , هو فضاء لتواصل العائلات وفن عابر الثقافات ببساطة تهليل النوم, هذه دعوة للرقص, الغناء واللعب بمساحة ملهمة بساعة الشفق السحرية.
العرض بالعربية, لغة السكان الاصليين لاستراليا, والانجليزية

100 WORDS

The stars are no longer twinkling in the sky and we need your help to sing to them back to shine more brightly than ever.

In this participatory performance, Aboriginal and Palestinian artists share lullabies from their languages and cultures while inviting children to dance, sing, and play in a magical twilight inspired installation space.

The experience invites families to connect across cultures through the simple beauty of lullabies. Take time to play with your toddler and share a small and beautiful moment in a special space.

Performed in Arabic, First Nations Australian languages, and English.



لم تعد النجوم تنير سماءنا, ونحن بحاجة لمساعدتك كي تعود من جديد, عندما تغني سنتسمع صوتك وتعود لتلمع وتضيئ السماء بكل جمال وروعة . عرض يجمع تهاويد النوم بين الفن الفلسطيني والاسترالي, ويدعو الاطفال للرقص واللعب بمساحة ملهمة بساعة الشفق السحرية.

هذه دعوة للعائلات للتواصل عبر الثقافات من خلال جمال وبساطة تهاويد النوم. تمتع بوقت مع طفلك وشارك لحظات خاصة ومميرة بفضاء سحري من اللعب.

العرض بالعربية, لغة السكان الاصليين لاستراليا, والانجليزية

REVIEWS AND TESTIMONIALS

“... a beautiful participatory performance...” Tot Hot Or Not

<https://tothotornot.com/lullabies-under-the-skies/>

Visitor reviews and feedback:

“We absolutely loved this workshop – thankyou. It was ran so beautifully and the changes in activities through song, story, dance, drawing really worked well.”

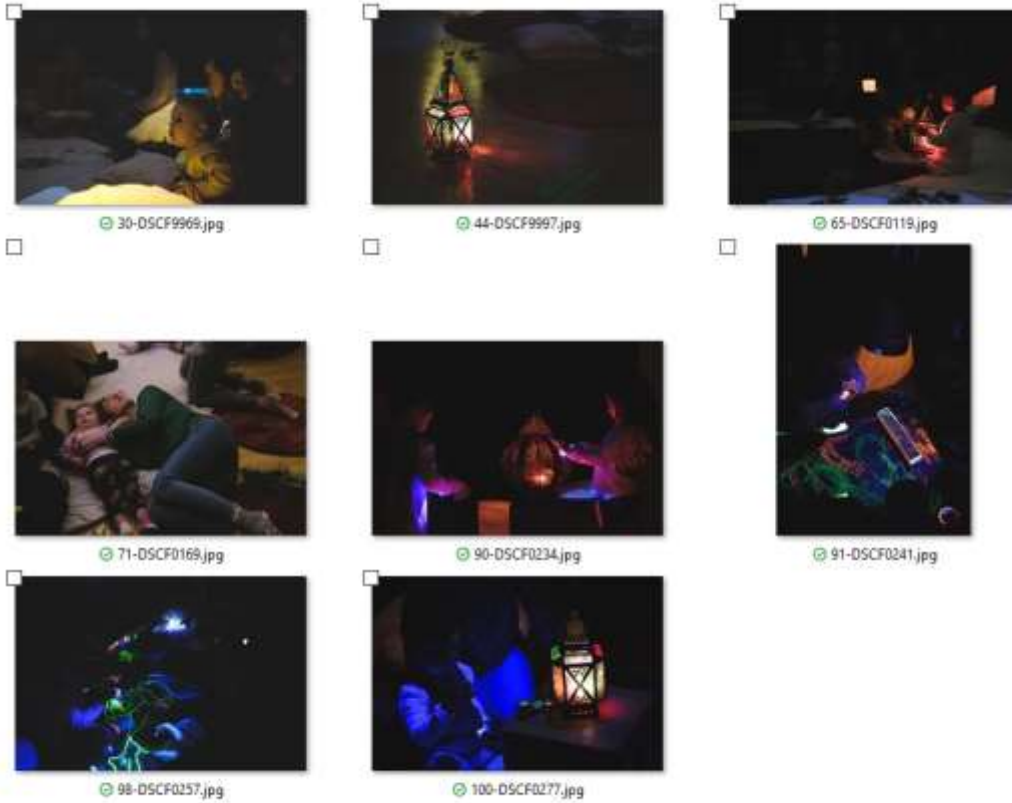
“My daughter left wanting more! Love it Thankyou”

“The artists were thoroughly engaging (for littles and adults.)”

“The experience is wonderful, the artist are so delightful with full of joy and cheering up.”



PHOTOS



https://milstead.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/TheMilsteadPerformingArtsCompany/EpCMdBhUgFNCtGYHuH7OCUEB_G1IOLa3h7L6kwHD2GF4Xw?e=QF2GVT

Please credit photographer Justyn Koh

VIDEO LINKS

2 min trailer

https://youtu.be/_QpDfVFtFD8

OTHER LINKS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.aseeltayah.com/>

<https://www.aseeltayah.com/performing-art>

<https://www.facebook.com/aseel.tayah>



COMPANY BIOS

Aseel Tayah is a vocalist, art producer, installation artist and activist. A prominent industry and community figure, Aseel creates community-lead, interactive, artistic experiences that respond to her own Islamic feminism and unique cross-cultural experience of diaspora.

In her home of Palestine, Aseel produced education and community art projects including an outreach programme for Arab schoolgirls, and a major children's festival at the Aida refugee camp in the West Bank.

Since moving to Australia in 2013, Aseel has been using her voice to tell stories at organisations including the National Gallery of Victoria, Malthouse Theatre, La Mama, Polyglot Theatre, and as a featured vocalist in the award-winning play *Tales of a City by the Sea*.

Her Australian projects have included *You Are Not a Boy* (Festival of Live Art 2016), and *Home Safe* (Moreland City Council). Her performance installation project *Bukjeh* which began in 2018 at the Melbourne Immigration Museum, has also been staged at the Melbourne Islamic Museum, the City of Greater Shepparton, the City of Casey, and is currently developing a large-scale Victorian regional tour.

Aseel holds an MA in Education and Art from Beit Berl College in occupied Palestine, and an MA in Fine Art and Community Practice from VCA Melbourne. She has acted as a cultural consultant for Arts Centre Melbourne, Parkville College and the Australian Multicultural Foundation. She is fluent in Arabic, Hebrew and English.



TOURING AND PRODUCTION

PRODUCTION SUMMARY (NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

Lullabies Under the Stars is an interactive musical show or performance playtime for children under 2 and their families. The show is built around a narrative of the stars in the sky disappearing because of a lack of joyful song from earth.

The performers introduce the audience to the space by leading the children in song and dance from Arabic and Australian Indigenous cultures; then the children are invited to explore the space, playing with colourful, nightlit activities. The show resolves when the stars return, and the audience come back together as a group and are each invited to share their own lullabies, language and ritual with everyone.

TOURING PARTY

Aseel Tayah	Creative Director, Performer (Arabic)
tbc*	Performer (Australian First Nations)
Max Scholar-Root	Performer, musician
Hannah Murphy	Production Manager / Operator

*the original season of *Lullabies Under the Stars* featured dancer Caleena Sansbury. We are currently recasting the role while Caleena takes maternity leave from the show until mid-2020.

All cast and crew ex-Melbourne. Aseel travels with her 3 year old daughter and requires babysitting during performances.

LOCAL FIRST NATIONS LULLABIES

In addition to the Touring Party, outside of Wurundjeri/Boonwurrung country, we seek to include local First Nations' language lullabies in the performance, which may be performed by our cast if appropriate or by local performers if possible. Local consultants and performers are paid by the Company.



DURATION and SCHEDULING

50 minutes

Max capacity 40 individuals (adults and children)

The company can present up to three sessions per day, with a minimum break of 45 minutes between any two sessions, and at least one 90 minute break during the day if there are three sessions.

eg. Session One: 10.00 am – 10.50 am
 Session Two: 11:35 am – 12:25 pm
 Session Three: 1:55 pm – 2:45 pm

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Lullabies Under the Stars is very flexible and can be installed in a wide variety of spaces including unconventional and non-theatrical venues. However there are some fundamentals that the show requires to work:

- the show is not suitable for outdoors.
- we require a dedicated space, we can't share it with other activities, shows, passing or through traffic. The show is installed throughout the space and children are invited to roam freely, so it needs to be clear, safe and secure.
- Minimum size of installed space 12m x 6m
- the audience is seated on the floor, and the children's activities take place at floor level. The floor should be clean, dry and safe for children; bare concrete is inadvisable due to the risk of children's injury.
- the space must be able to be reasonably blacked out. A total blackout is not required, but the show is set at night and we use projections and UV illumination. It should be too dark to comfortably read a book.
- Significant sound bleed will degrade the show considerably. We do not require total soundproofing from outside, but please remember at the heart of the show is an unamplified sharing of lullabies, so intrusions from loud, jarring sounds will undermine the experience.
- We rig a flat canopy above the space as a projection surface, and project from above it.



General specs:

- No theatrical lighting required. We only require the house lights to be dimmable on cue to a 70% blackout as noted above. All other lighting is battery operated and supplied by the Company.
- No amplification required for performers. We require audio playback for an atmospheric sound bed to play during the playtime part of the show, ideally from one source in each corner of the room.
- No operator required (the Company brings their own). Venue to supply FOH staff and supervising tech.
- All cues including projection run from QLab laptop by our Stage Manager, at the operator position (presenter to provide projector).

Pictures of the installed space:



Music licensing: None

Show freight: 2pc additional baggage (23kg x 2) when travelling by air

STAFFING

Bump in: 1 x LX, 1 x MX, 4 hours each

Bump out: 1 x MX, 2 hours

Show call: 1 x Supervising tech.

Bump in afternoon, 1st performance the next day.

(end)

