

indelabilityarts

# WILBUR THE OPTICAL WHALE DIGITAL PROGRAM





**indelabilityarts**

**PRESENTS**

**WILBUR THE OPTICAL WHALE**

**THE CREW + CREATIVES**

Writer: Karen Lee Roberts

Director: Catarina Hebbard

Auslan Interpreter: Leanne Beer

Dramaturgy: Elise Grieg

Animation: Lee Evans

Sound: Phil Hagstrom

Set: Chancie Jessop

Costume: Chancie Jessop

Costume + Set manager: Jess Hansen

Tech Manager: Jeremy Gordon

Dave Sakko

Marketing: Georgina Bullock



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## THE CAST:

Wilbur: Joel Lago

Cecil: Rebecca Alexander

Narrator: Karen Lee Roberts

Big K: Alexandra Ellen

Steve: Kelsey Adams

PJ: Davy Sampford

OG: Michel Labosse

Barra: David Waldie

## Understudy

Big K: Cienda McNamara



# Synopsis



"Wilbur the Optical Whale" is a 'tale' about friendship, acceptance and celebrating difference. Wilbur and Cecil are BFF's. They are inseparable...or are they? One day while playing hide and seaweed, they are set upon by the Starfish Meanie Gang! How do they get out of this one? Join Wilbur and Cecil and help them in their quest.

Set in an exquisitely crafted underwater world full of stunning circus tricks, digital and visual imagery, music, and interactive play, "Wilbur the Optical Whale" is an immersive, interactive accessible performance for children aged 3-8 years.

All of indelabilityarts' shows have integrated Auslan interpreting, and headphones are available so audience members can engage on their own terms. The set includes a quiet space as part of relaxed performance mode catering to those who may require it.



# Understudies



## WILBUR JOEL LAGO

From humble beginnings as “Plum Pudding” - a nuanced performance his mother described as “Spectacular” - Joel has always had a love for performance. This love has afforded him incredible opportunities, from acting in many Community Theatre productions in Brisbane to nabbing the role of “Young Volunteer” in the upcoming TV Show, “Joe vs. Carole” where he was required to hand a cup of coffee to Kate McKinnon. It was, in all honesty, the best day of his life. Joel is curious in the ways that performance has the power to change perceptions of what is perceived to be a “normal” body, and the ways that performance invites an audience into the lives of people who are rarely given a platform. Joel is incredibly honoured to play the role of Wilbur and to help Indelabilityarts bring this story to life.





# CECIL

## REBECCA ALEXANDER

Rebecca is Co-artistic Director and co-founder of indelabilityarts. She holds both Acting (USQ) and Education degrees and currently works as an actor, workshop facilitator, producer and director. As a director, Rebecca's major theatre credits include Look Mum... No Hands!!! (indelabilityarts; Co-Director) & Love me;. Rebecca was also co-artistic director and actor of award winning ThreeSisters productions (Bronte & Catholic School Girls).

After living in the UK and immersing herself in a variety of diverse theatre practices Rebecca returned to Brisbane and spent a year touring for Shake & Stir Theatre Company. She has worked with Queensland Theatre as a workshop artist and performed and toured with Debase Productions in 2009 with their show Snagged. Other theatre credits include La Boite Theatre Company (Summer Wonderland – Matilda Award nominee), Debase Productions, 4MBS Classic FM (Much Ado About Nothing), QLD Arts Council (Sensational Harry, Idotluddotu) and Cement Box Theatre. Rebecca's film credits include A Hood in the Woods and Leader of the Pack.

# NARRATOR + WRITER KAREN LEE ROBERTS



Karen Lee Roberts has performed extensively in both Australia and the United Kingdom. In 2015 Karen performed her original cabaret Chameleon at QTC. Karen spoke at the 2015 Pacific Rim International Conference for Disability and Diversity in Hawaii. She has published two children's books, including Wilbur the Optical Whale. Karen has performed her cabaret, Chameleon at Room to Play (2016), Anywhere Theatre Festival (2017 and 2018) and at Melbourne's Butterfly Club (2019). She performed in indelabilityarts' Love Me and Look Mum, No Hands! In 2018 she performed at the Bleach Festival in the show Intimate Space with Restless Dance, winning a Helpmann Award. Karen did two jazz gigs during the Covid-19 lockdown and her cabaret. She has MC'd for events around Brisbane, and shot two QLD Government short films for disability, including the award winning The No Pile.

# BIG K ALEXANDRA ELLEN



Alexandra Ellen is an emerging artist, actor, writer and visual artist. She takes a multidisciplinary approach to her artistic practice which crosses form.

In 2014 she was in Cash on Delivery (Ballina Players) and Remnants (Director, John Senczuk) in 2015. In 2017 she joined indelabilityarts where she was part of the creative development of Love Me; and Wilbur the Optical Whale, which had an award-winning season at Adelaide Fringe, 2020. She was also part of the Queensland Government's All Abilities: Everybody had a Role to Play video campaign. In 2020 she has attended Back to Back Theatre's CAMP as well as being part of Creative Alliance's artist development program, Must Go On...

Alexandra's visual arts practice leans towards mixed media, experimenting with materials and technique, and has contributed to many collaborative exhibitions and curated her first solo exhibition, 'Outside, Inside' in 2019.

# OG STARFISH

**MICHEL LABOSSE**



Michel is an emerging performer. He began training at Backbone Youth Arts and as part of an ensemble performed in various productions between 2012-2014. He was interviewed for Theatre gives insight into life unseen (612 ABC Brisbane Jessica Hinchliffe Oct 2014) and he has attended various workshops with Kimberley Twiner, Anna Yen and BACK-TO-BACK Theatre Geelong. Since 2015 he has been working hard creating and performing with indelabilityarts on Look Mum...No Hands!!! and Love Me ;. He has appeared in numerous presentations of both shows but thinks the highlight to date would have to be touring with the company to perform at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in February 2018. He is noted for his jokes and looks forward to more touring!



# BARRA STAR FISH

**DAVID WALDIE**



David is a singer, dancer and actor who enjoys playing comedy and writing his own songs. He has been a member of indelabilityarts since its inception in 2015. David believes in equality and acceptance – he wants to be seen as a performer in his own right regardless of his disability. David sings with the Voicebox Choir. He has trained with Backbone Youth Arts and is part of the Light Ensemble, appearing in performances for 2High Festival, Undercover Artist Festival at QTC and numerous other presentations as part of the ensemble. David attended CAMP Geelong in 2015 with Back to Back Theatre. In 2015, as part of Bust-a-Move Dance he performed at the opening of the Special Olympics in Los Angeles. David wants to be as famous as Hugh Jackman and his favourite artists are Delta Goodrem, Ricky Martin and Jessica Mauboy.



# STEVE STARFISH

## KELSEY ADAMS



Kelsey was a competitive artistic gymnast, performing with her troupe from Splitz Gym at the World Gymnaestrada in Austria in 2007, as well as coaching gymnastics at the Western Districts Youth Club and Pep Gymnastics. She made the transition to circus in 2013, learning and soon teaching flying trapeze with Circus Arts Brisbane. Kelsey travelled to the US to teach flying trapeze in 2015. As an aerial artist, Kelsey has performed at the Carnivále Ball, the June Cabaret at the Little Tivoli (2016) and the Quiver Cabaret in Brisbane Powerhouse's MELT Festival (2017).

# PJ STAR FISH

## DAVY SAMPFORD



Passionate juggler and instructor Davy has over 25 years of experience as an independent artist and director. A founding member of two very successful Brisbane companies, Circa and Briefs. He has also worked for Circus OZ and Circus Monoxide. More recently Davy has enjoyed touring with [indelabilityarts](#) on their showing of Wilbur.





# **BIG K**

## **Understudy**

### **CIENDA MCNAMARA**

Cienda is an award-winning actor and director. She was a resident artist with Grin and Tonic Theatre Troupe, performing with its in-school program. As well as performing for G&T in their productions of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *A Winter's Tale*, *Timon of Athens*, *Pericles Prince of Tyre*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, (Del ArtÉ award). Other credits include *Minefields* and *Miniskirts*, *Assassins*, *Anything Goes*, *Children of Eden*, *Richard III*, and *Antigone*.

In 2012 Cienda wrote and performed her cabaret, *Nobody Does It Like Me* (Brisbane Cabaret Festival).

In 2014 she premiered *Hardly the Portrait of Lady* (Short+Sweet+Cabaret, Sydney) winning awards for Best Female Performer, Best Script, Best Comedy, and again at the Tasmanian Cabaret Festival as part of The Festival of Voices. Cienda also appeared in *TROUBLE* for Drop Bear at Tamarama Rock Surfers, Sydney. In September Cienda appeared in *A Doll's House*, adapted by Lally Katz for La Boite Theatre, receiving a Matilda Award for her portrayal of Kristine Linde.

In June 2015, Cienda premiered *UnPC* as part of the Brisbane Cabaret Festival. And was featured as The Ice Queen for The Myer/Brisbane City Council Christmas Pantomime. In 2016 Cienda previewed *Natural Born Spinster*. In 2017 Cienda performed in *Macbeth* for The Danger Ensemble.

2018 saw Cienda appear in *Much Ado About Nothing* for the Brisbane Shakespeare Festival.





# THE DIRECTOR

## CATARINA HEBBARD

Catarina holds both Arts (Acting) and Education degrees from QUT and Griffith respectively and works as a freelance director, actor, voice-over artist, mentor and teacher. As a Director, her most recent credits include: Poison (EG & Metro Arts), Spike Heels (QUT), Look Mum...No Hands!!! and Love Me; (Co-Director indelabilityarts), the Laramie Project (NIDA open), Bumpy Angels and DNA (The Arts Centre Gold Coast), Dolores (Anywhere Theatre Festival), Head Full of Love (Re-mount & National Tour 2015 QT/C), The Pitch & Eight (QT/C), Grimm Tales & More Grimm Tales (La Boite YAC) Medea Redux: Awkward Conversations (Daniel Evans & Metro Arts), Company and The Boy From Oz (Ignatians) and Machina (La Boite Indie), Catholic School Girls (co-production with Three Sisters) and Minefields and Miniskirts (MadCat Creative connections) and The Taming of the Shrew, The Merry Wives of Windsor and Romeo and Juliet (4MBS Classic FM).





5 people standing on stage 1 person sitting on a walker looking out to the audience in colourful costumes.



Wilbur has his arm around Cecil and they are looking at each other standing in front of an audience.



Wilbur is stretching his arms out wide and leaning towards the children in the audience..



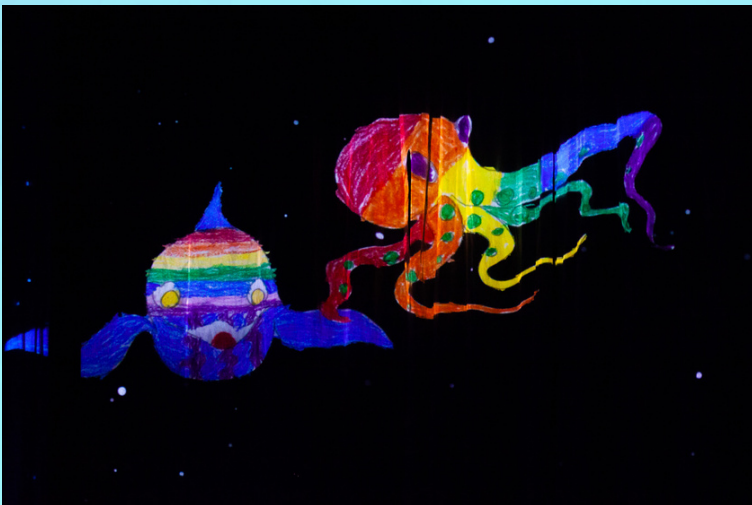
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Kelsey is kneeling down on one knee stretching on the stage before performing.



Karen is talking to the kids in her costume which is a blue coat with blue leggings and her hands flat out in front of her.



Some of the other children's arts work projected onto the wall in the dark room.

