

The Love Booth

Revealing
60 years
of queer love

8-9 MARCH 2024

A PLAY BY
TARA GOLDSTEIN AND
DONNA JACKSON

DIRECTED BY
DONNA JACKSON



This project is supported by Hobsons Bay City Council through its Make It Happen Grants

**ART &
INDUSTRY**
PROJECTS

INDUSTRIAL ART SIGN CO

Megan
MEGAN SLATTERY | DESIGN

Hubeap
PRODUCTIONS

Gailey Road
PRODUCTIONS

AUSPICIOUS
ARTS
PROJECTS

☒ **Make it
Happen**
GRANTS

**HOBSON'S
BAY CITY
COUNCIL**



The Love Booth

What is *The Love Booth*?

The Love Booth began life as a play by Tara Goldstein to commemorate 50 years from the time homosexuality was delisted from being considered a 'mental disorder' by the American Psychiatric Association. Tara drew on original sources and quotes using a verbatim process to write *The Love Booth* which was performed at the Toronto Pride Festival in June 2023 by her theatre company Gailey Road Productions. In December 2023 she invited Donna Jackson of Hubcap Productions to direct the work in Australia. Donna and Tara both agreed that local Australian and Western Suburbs stories from the homosexual and queer communities would be important to find and listen to and to craft into a new version of *The Love Booth*. This work is the partnership of those ideas.

What are the aims of *The Love Booth*?

- To research queer history in the Hobsons Bay and Melbourne areas and use this information theatrically in a new and extended version of the play.
- To involve members of the Hobsons Bay LGBTIQA+ communities in both the research and presentation of this work.
- To take a new approach to the history of the area by researching an undocumented section of the population which was and is gay.
- To invite a leading queer theatre company from Canada, Gailey Road Productions, to collaborate with the local communities supported by local director Donna Jackson.
- To work on an international theatre exchange that marks an important moment – when homosexuality was delisted from being diagnosed as a mental disorder.

What was the process of working on this version of *The Love Booth*?

The work was created by inviting firstly local creatives both queer and allies to contribute in the process of finding stories and developing them theatrically. While Jennifer Lund worked to find a musical sound track for the many stories, Megan Slattery was inspired by the original design and colour palette to create this current set and costume design. A call out was taken up by a number of community minded locals who shared stories that were funny, inspiring and difficult. This show comes about from their bravery and shared truths.

Over nine months there were many, many Zoom calls between Canada and Newport during which time it was agreed playwright Tara Goldstein and her partner Margot Huycke would play the two main protagonists. Canadian singer-songwriter Kael Reid (who composed the music for the original version) agreed to write a new song for this version and come and perform it with our locals.

A call out was made through Western City Regions LGBTIQA+ Working Group and the Hobson's Bay Council Rainbow Awards which attracted a cohort of queer activists and designers who created personal outfits for show which are statements using the medium of fashion.

Rehearsals have taken place over many months in houses, halls and community centres with many diverse approaches to performance, language, love, music and design being explored and celebrated.

We acknowledge the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners of these lands and waterways and pay our respect to Elders past and present.



Dr Tara Goldstein

Playwright 'The Love Booth'

Tara is the Founder and current Co-Artistic Director of Gailey Road Productions. She graduated from the Masters in Fine Art Playwriting Program at Spalding University, Louisville, Kentucky. Tara is a professor, researcher and playwright in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and

Learning at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education, University of Toronto. Gailey Road Productions was founded in 2007 by Tara. It is an independent theatre company which creates work from verbatim stories. They are a leading company in the area of LGBTIQ+ theatre where theatre meets academic research and research meets theatre. They have worked with 65 writers and 80 theatre artists. www.gaileyroad.com



Dr Donna Jackson

Director, Writer and Producer

Donna is a Newport local and long-time arts maker in the western suburbs. She founded the Women's Circus at Footscray Community Arts Centre in 1991. She was the lead singer of 1980's lesbian band 'Nice Girls Don't Spit'.

Recently her company Hubcap Productions has been managing the Art & Industry Festival and Projects which have enabled several diverse and successful arts projects with the local community. Donna has a strong community-based process of artmaking. For this work she wrote many sections of text inspired by verbatim stories as well as songs. Her next project is setting up a theatre school for interested performers. www.hubcapproductions.com.au



Jennifer Lund

Musical Director

Jennifer is a local musician and teacher who has worked across the community supporting musical projects including as the choir leader of Willin Wimmin Choir for over a decade. For *The Love Booth*

she has sourced, found and created music and recorded spoken text for this production. She has worked in partnership with Donna Jackson to create a 'sound track' which maps the emotional journey of this version of *The Love Booth*.



Megan Slattery

Graphic Design, Set and Costume Design, Song Writer, Marketing

Megan is a graphic designer who has marketing and design experience across the Hobsons Bay area working with the council, Newport Folk Festival, and the Art & Industry Festival and Projects. Megan has now extended her

design skills to create the set, backdrop and costume palette for this performance. Her skills are further reflected in the song *Let's Start With I Love You* which she wrote after speaking with her friends and peers extensively. She will also perform the role of Chris Phillips in this production who she is replacing due to illness. www.meganslatterydesign.com.au



Lizz Lethlean

Image Maker, Mask and Puppets

Lizz is a local creative who specialised in puppetry, image making and performance. As a member of Handspan Theatre and toured with the company as a performing artist for over a decade. For this production

Lizz has hand built books and masks and led the learning of using these theatre items in performance with the cast.



Dr Kael Reid

Song Writer 'Prying Eyes'

Slam-storytelling meets many a queer-themed tune in the music of singer-songwriter and whip smart wordsmith, Kael Reid, who combines musical activism with public pedagogy. With a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Toronto, Kael is currently

an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies at York University. www.kaelreid.com



Anna Kolusniewski

Fashionista Costume Construction

Anna has been designing jewellery and costume specialising in garments made from unusual materials and costume jewellery for theatre and fashion. Anna worked with and supported our Fashionista's at her

studio 'Aa is For Art' with skills in construction and design.



Dawn Holland

Production's Technical Management

Dawn began her career sound mixing lesbian and gay acts in the 1980s. She has an Advanced Diploma in Technical Production and has been the Technical Manager for Red Stitch Theatre and Theatre Works. She founded current all girl, all gay band

The Lost Girls and is their sound mixer of choice. She has worked with Donna Jackson on many large-scale productions including *The Women's Circus' Daddy*.

Storytellers

Tony Briffa	Hobsons Bay City Council
Bronwen Barton	The Wedding and At the Football
Tara Goldstein	Plays Barbara Gittings
Chris Phillips	Played by Megan Slattery and Mark Fawcett
Margot Huycke	Plays Kay Lahusen
Friends of Newport Lakes	Carol Trezise, Gai Mooney, Lorraine Harrison
Kael Reid	Composer <i>Prying Eyes 1&2</i>
Bailey Burkhardt	Fashionista 1
Natasha Mohamed	Fashionista 2
Filipe Filihi	Fashionista 3
Lev Lu	Fashionista 4
Megan Slattery	Composer - <i>Let's Start With I Love You.</i> Fran Callahan guitar.
Simon Fieldhouse	Dr Anonymous
Frances Brunton	Fashionista 5
Amy Ferguson	Fashionista 6

Performers

Alisa Page	Bridesmaid, singer
Amy Ferguson	Singer and dancer <i>The Love Booth</i>
Anneliese Rosenmayer	Singer
Fran Callahan	Masks, singer, guitar
Jodie Henry	Bridesmaid, singer, mask
Julie Merritt	Masks, The Books, singer
Laura Sheridan	Cello
Dr Liz Cyarto	Masks, The Books, singer
Lizz Lethlean	The Books, singer
Meaghan Ferguson	Singer and dancer <i>The Love Booth</i>
Mark Fawcett	Actor, singer and dancer
Natasha Mohamed	Masks, The Books
Shanti Steventon	Singer and dancer <i>The Love Booth</i>
Vicki Passmore	The Bride, Masks, singer

Team

Writer	Tara Goldstein
Writer, Director, Producer	Donna Jackson
Music Director	Jennifer Lund
Designer - Graphic, Set and AV	Megan Slattery
Builder Masks and Books	Lizz Lethlean
Song Writing: <i>Bridesmaid's Song, The Love Booth, Scorpions Football Song</i>	Donna Jackson and Jennifer Lund
Costume Construction	Anna Kolusniewski
Slide Images and Construction	Megan Slattery and Chris Downey
Film Work and Editing	Chris Downey
Production Management	Dawn Holland
Lighting Design	The Team
Sound & AV Operation	Elliott Glass
Stage Manager	Elliot Glass
Lighting Operation	Talfryn Dawlines
Town Hall Technical Manager	Garth Sheridan
Rehearsal Space and Transport	Tony Mead, Industrial Art Signs

The original version of *The Love Booth* was performed at the Toronto Pride Festival in June 2023 by Gailey Road Productions.

Writer	Tara Goldstein
Director	Jenny Salisbury
Composer	Kael Reid
Graphic Design	Benjamin Lee Hicks

Thank you

- Queer activists past and present
- Hobsons Bay City Council and staff
- Auspicious Arts Projects
- Cara Jones
- Gai Mooney
- Dr Lorraine Harrison
- Dr Liz Cyarto
- Louise Karch
- Chris Phillips
- Jamie Maniatopoulos
- Gailey Road Productions for trusting us with your work

This project is supported by Hobsons Bay City Council through its Make It Happen Grants



INDUSTRIAL ART SIGN CO



Hubeap PRODUCTIONS



AUSPICIOUS
ARTS
PROJECTS



SEP 16–OCT 25
10AM–3PM | MON–FRI
NEWPORT

@Journey to Performance

Students will:

- make theatre based on their lived experience
- learn the basic building blocks of theatre making
- explore foundations of performance, comedy and melodrama to be taught and directed by Donna Jackson and guest teacher John Bolton
- devise pieces to be performed in final week

If you are 18 or above, passionate about theatre, experienced or a complete beginner – we invite you to apply!

Contact Donna Jackson donna@hubcapproductions.com.au

**Enjoyed The Love Booth?
Want to create performance
from important stories?**

**Join a 6-week theatre school
being run by director, writer
and producer Donna Jackson**