

Attend BOUFFONS & the ECSTASY of MOCKING in Melbourne

Kate McDowell



Attendees at the Giovanni Fusetti BOUFFONS & the ECSTASY of MOCKING workshop in Melbourne, 2018.

Kate McDowell was given the opportunity to travel from her home in Lennox Head, New South Wales, to Melbourne, Victoria, to attend 5-day Bouffon workshop with master clown and teacher Giovanni Fusetti - BOUFFONS and the ECSTASY of MOCKING.

Over five days, Kate learned the essence of the form, where it came from, and how to use the approach to develop scenes. They learned how to tackle difficult subjects and in the safe environment of the workshop were able to witness when performers crossed the line - when the audience no longer laughed but felt uncomfortable. At the same time the group learned together when the material was too safe. This experience enabled workshop participants to have the confidence to broach difficult topics, and know how bring their work back to effective satire.

Kate is Associate Director at Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre and this training has assisted Kate in her work as a mentor, workshop facilitator and creator of new works with the Company. In 2019 Giovanni Fusetti will travel to the Northern Rivers and work alongside Kate to facilitate a two-week research intensive with Sprung! to explore clown and Bouffon with an integrated group. Likewise, the training has assisted Kate in her role as Associate Artist at Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA), where Kate works as a researcher/writer and workshop facilitator, as well as developing her independent theatre practice.

Cultural & Economic Impacts:

- Formation of new work, workshops, and creative development sessions with NOPRA and Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre, imparting the knowledge gleaned through the attended workshops
- Collaborative partnerships formed between Giovanni and the Northern Rivers, based around the form of satirical physical comedy, creating opportunities for the general artistic community to participate in a workshops
- An increased capacity for future collaborations
- Sprung!! are becoming recognised as talented creators of dance/theatre works, proven by their nomination and subsequent shortlist for an Australian Dance Award: Outstanding Achievement in Community Dance

Social Impacts:

- Increased peer networks with artists from across Australia
- Increased potential for access to high quality collaborations
- Increased social cohesion and community capacity - Kate's current work in Community is predominately with persons living with Down Syndrome
- Increased career opportunities for Kate have become apparent, through new work creation, specifically, co-creation of and performing in 'Share House' by Sprung! at 'Anywhere Festival Brisbane'
- Increased confidence has led to Kate taking on additional performing and workshop facilitation roles with the companies she works for on the Northern Rivers - Sprung!! Integrated Dance Theatre and NORPA
- Kate's connection with Giovanni through the workshop has enabled her to provide Sprung!! with the opportunity to work a world-class teacher, opening up new ideas and ways of working, further extending their skills and capacity to make cutting-edge work

Links/socials:

[Sprung!! Intergrated Dance Theatre Inc. website](#)

[Northern Rivers Performing Arts \(NORPA\) website](#)