

Arts Centre Melbourne and Performing Lines WA present

## ***Whoosh!*** by Sensorium Theatre



### ***An interactive sensory space adventure for young explorers with disabilities***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, APRIL 2019** – To kick off the Winter/Spring Families program comes a work that asks children to hop on board a custom-built spaceship in ***Whoosh!*** For one day only, Saturday 29 June, children will be taken across the galaxy for an interstellar adventure in The Pavilion at Arts Centre Melbourne with blast off at 10am and 12pm.

*Whoosh!* is an immersive and highly-tailored, multi-sensory performance suitable for all children, including those with a broad range of access requirements, multiple and complex needs and those on the autism spectrum. Putting children with disabilities at the centre of the action is what makes this work so unique.

*“Performing Lines WA is extremely proud to have produced this incredible show with Sensorium Theatre. This company is leading innovation in theatre making and what is even more exciting, is that the work is focused on young audiences with disability. We have helped take Sensorium’s shows to the world and I think this new show *Whoosh!* will demonstrate that small companies, with the right support, can create great impact for audiences,”* says Senior Producer, **Rachael Whitworth**.

On this tour of outer space, children will board a stunning custom-built spaceship to co-pilot an interstellar adventure where they will taste space food, experience hyperspace and travel to the mysterious Planet X.

*“Sensorium always brings our audiences right into our stage settings with us, but with *Whoosh!* we wanted to bring them into being part of the actual story,”* says Co-Artistic Director **Francis Italiano**.

Whether kids are budding astronauts, pilots, engineers or navigators, they will learn how to work together as a team, use their senses, unleash their imagination and illuminate their sense of adventure.

With an impressive set and pioneering use of technology, including a [new digital app](#) that allows children to familiarise themselves with the story and characters prior to seeing the show, this is Sensorium Theatre’s most ambitious production to date.

*“When past audiences suggested we explore Outer Space, we started dreaming up a story-world where technology could help them really feel part of a spaceship crew, so that we could all take the journey of our imaginations together,”* explains Co-Artistic Director **Michelle Hovane**.

Our partners



# Media Release

Using Sensorium's trademark inclusive performance style, families can attend and enjoy the performance together knowing the additional needs of their children are at the forefront of the performers' minds. The 10am performance is recommended for children with autism and the 12pm performance is recommended for children with profound and multiple disabilities.

*"The company has a wonderful rapport with their audiences and meets every individual right where they are,"* says **Peg Schuler-Armstrong**, Lincoln Center Education.

Arts Centre Melbourne's year-round Families Program was launched in August 2009 and has grown in reputation to become a highly respected program nationally and internationally. Featuring intimate and large-scale theatre from some of the world's most respected companies and a diverse range of interactive workshops, the program is robust and growing in size, scale and scope.

Images can be found [here](#).

## **About Sensorium Theatre**

Based in Perth, Sensorium Theatre is Australia's only company creating work for young audiences with a broad range of access needs, including those with complex support needs and those on the autism spectrum. Their high-quality hands-on performances invite children to touch, taste, smell, hear, feel and see stories unfold around them. The intentionally small audiences are onstage with the artists who continually adapt their performance to connect with individual learning abilities and communication style of each child. This way, each child becomes an active participant in the storytelling experience. Their values are to be heart-centred, inclusive, artistically rigorous and sustainable, and our vision is to allow all young people to be enchanted by the magic of theatre.

## **About Performing Lines WA**

Performing Lines WA produces new and transformative performance, creating pathways for innovative artists whose work pushes boundaries and sparks new conversations. Over our 10 years in WA and 30 years nationally, we have collaborated with arts companies, producers, presenters and funders to bring about creative and strategic opportunities for some of WA's most exciting and diverse contemporary artists and performances.

## **Creative Team**

**Artistic Directors:** Michelle Hovane and Francis Italiano

**Assistant Director:** Bec Bradley

**Performers:** Jamie David, Michelle Hovane, Francis Italiano, Daisy Sanders and Bec Bradley

**Composer/Sound Designer:** Jamie David

**Digital & Technology Designer:** Steve Berrick

**Set Designer:** Matthew McVeigh

**Dramaturg:** James Berlyn

**Costume Designer:** Cherie Hewson

**Age Suitability:** Recommended for ages 5-9 (learning age) and 5yrs+ (children with disabilities)

**Accessibility:** Wheelchair Access, Immersive, Companion Card, Relaxed, Highly Visual, Relaxed Performance

**Duration:** 60 minutes (no interval)

**Arts Centre Melbourne and Performing Lines WA present**

***Whoosh!***

***by Sensorium Theatre***

**Saturday 29 June | 10am and 12pm**

**Arts Centre Melbourne, The Pavilion**

**Bookings at [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)**

For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne, please visit [www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au) or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of [Arts Centre Melbourne on Facebook](#) or follow [@artscentremelb](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

For further media information and interviews, please contact Media Advisor Kara Bertoncini on (03) 8699 9553, 0438 423 308 or [kara.bertoncini@artscentremelbourne.com.au](mailto:kara.bertoncini@artscentremelbourne.com.au).

Our partners



**Arts Centre Melbourne**  
100 St Kilda Road,  
Melbourne VIC 3004  
PO Box 7585, Melbourne VIC 8004  
[artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au)