

- Our Story -
SLINGSBY
- Journey In Wonder -



Founded in 2007, Adelaide based theatre company Slingsby creates emotionally powerful storytelling that invites audiences of all ages into immersive theatrical realms. Each Slingsby show is an invitation into a magical world, transporting audiences to a time and place that is at once breathtaking, and familiar. By telling stories of wonder, hardship and hope Slingsby builds connections and joy within our community. With an international reputation as a distinctive and cherished company with seasons at some of the world's most prestigious festivals and venues including repeat

invitations to New Victory Theater, New York, Dublin Theatre Festival, Edinburgh International Children's Festival and Sydney Opera House alongside tours across USA, Canada, Singapore, China, India, Norway, UK, Ireland, New Zealand and across Australia, 10 of Slingsby's original productions have now toured regionally, nationally and/or internationally. A brace of local, national, and international industry awards is testament to the company's renown for excellence in theatre making and life long impact on the lives of audiences of all ages.



Slingsby acknowledges that we create, gather and work on Kurna Meyunna Country and pay respect to Elders past and present. We recognise and respect the Kurna People's cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with country, and acknowledge their continuing importance to the Kurna people living today.



A
Concise
Compendium
OF Wonder
~ a triptych

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A Concise Compendium of Wonder ~ a triptych



Imagine stepping into an illustrated collection of fairytale-inspired worlds. Each contains a magical and hope-inspiring tale where fears are confronted, truths are winkled out, and themes both timeless and contemporary are explored. Three self-contained original stories, inspired by classic fairytales, intertwine and layer as a meaningful triptych. *A Concise Compendium of Wonder* examines humanity's shifting relationship with nature across more than 700 years.

Through these stories, Slingsby will illuminate what humans have gained and what we have lost, as we have moved from living in the forest, to a rural setting, to an urban forest of buildings. And now, from this un-natural landscape, we look out to space and consider relocating to planets beyond. *A Concise Compendium of Wonder* considers the environment in both form and content.

Each story in the triptych is a stand-alone performance. Audiences may attend just one production, see all three across a season or step into an epic experience of three shows back-to-back, in a set that continually reveals new surprises. The design world will evolve across the productions as we traverse 700 years of humankind's interaction with the landscape.

Using Slingsby's internationally renowned theatre techniques of shadow, light-play, original music, and miniatures, this work is epic in its intricacy rather than scale. This is an original performance experience that responds to the current climate crisis, while being a multi-faceted, precious jewel that inspires hope for the future.

- Our Approach -

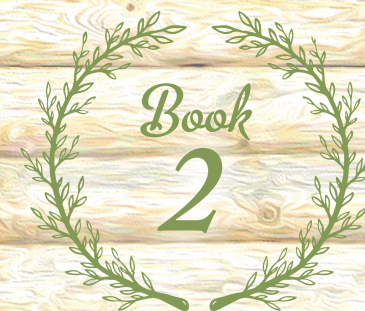


*Inspired by
the Brothers Grimm's
Hansel and Gretel*

In this first story of the triptych, we see a picture of humanity living freely on common land, closely in touch with the natural world of the wild forest.

The design world encompasses woodcuts, maps, Australian gothic, miniature forests, and the smells and textures of nature.

Set in the 1300s, following a Great Famine, we follow two siblings in this Grimm-inspired tale. The pair has been cast out, perhaps away from other dangers, into a forest that's full of both fear and beauty. Starvation, or being eaten, are real perils. But the forest, and the siblings, are also full of resources.



*Inspired by
Oscar Wilde's
The Selfish Giant*

In this second story of the triptych, we see the once-untamed forest has been brought under control, with fenced farmland and a manicured walled garden. The design world explores divided space, a giant puppet glimpsed through a window, shadow play, and the shifting of seasons.

*Our reimagining of *The Selfish Giant* is set in the mid-1700s. Perpetual winter descends upon a giant's garden, after playful children are shut out by a massive wall. The control and ownership of land and nature is examined, alongside the power of nature through the seasons. We are reminded of the value of play, and a child's perspective.*



*Inspired by
Hans Christian Anderson's
The Little Match Girl*

In this third story of the triptych, the forest is now forgotten in its original form, and transfigured into a single majestic indoor decoration. A child, full of longing, is outside, creating a potent image of the separation of nature and humankind. The story's design world involves futuristic, screen-based microscopic investigation of plant life, beautiful but physically distanced, until at last the performance space unfolds to reveal the regrowth of a vast natural forest.

*Set in a not-too-distant future of around 2100, inspired by *The Little Match Girl*, this is a tale of endings and new beginnings. As rockets laden with people depart from earth, a waif child is alone on the street of a faceless, frozen city. Clinging to life, the child takes comfort in wondrous hallucinations: food, warmth and a giant Christmas tree.*

"...In the relatively short time they've been in existence, they have carved a space as one of the global all-stars of making intelligent, wondrous staged works for young people..."

Mary Rose Lloyd

Artistic Director, New 42/
New Victory Theater, New York

The Team

The cast for the triptych will consist of the same three actors for all three stories. The production will be designed to tour with a production team including a Production Manager, Stage Manager and Technician/Operator, and an anticipated 1.5 day bump-in schedule.

Creative Team

Andy Packer Director

Quincy Grant Devisor/Composer

Wendy Todd Environment Design

Chris Petridis Lighting Design

Ailsa Paterson Set and Costume Design

Look & Feel

A triptych is an artwork made up of three pieces or panels. The form is often used to impart narrative, create a sequence, or show different elements of the same subject matter.

These three touring productions will be performed in an enclosed designed world that holds seeds of all three stories: the forest, the settled village, and the future city. The performance space will be a portable wooden building that can be erected in a town hall, studio or on a proscenium arch stage.

An audience of 130 people of all ages will be invited into this wooden meeting house and into the world of each story through a range of participatory immersive experiences.

Reducing our Environmental Impact

Slingsby is committed to reducing the climate impact of its art making and touring. *A Concise Compendium of Wonder* – a triptych will help us to achieve our environmental ambition, strategically linked to our Green Touring Model, to eliminate more greenhouse gas pollution than we create.

Using a slower touring model also allows for an extended stay in each venue and for the touring artists to engage with local artists and community through a series of workshops and engagements.

A Concise Compendium of Wonder will be presented as a triptych: three productions on one set with one cast, reducing the overall climate impact. Told side by side, a more complex and urgent story about the natural world emerges from this collection of tales.

For further information contact

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