

An Imaginary Life Marketing Pack

Creative Producer: Libby Klysz

libbyklysz@gmail.com

An Imaginary Life

Based on the novel by David Malouf

Adapted & Performed by Humphrey Bower

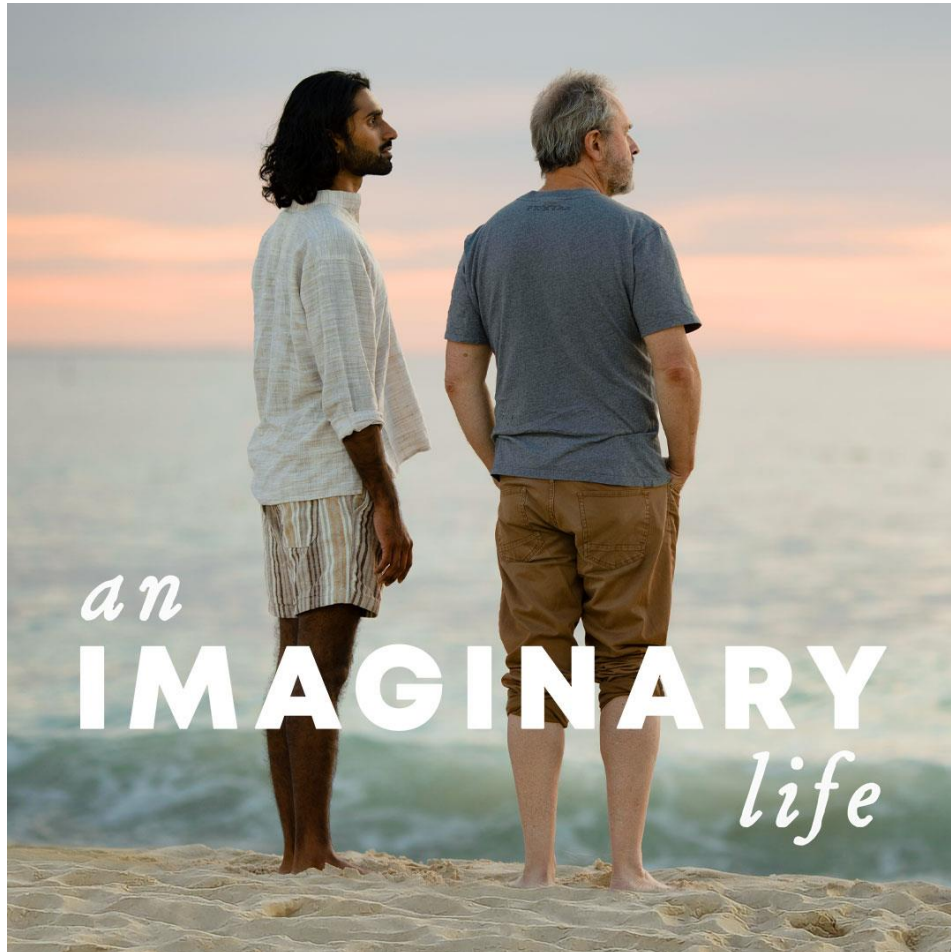


Image: Daniel Grant. Pictured: Pavan Kumar Hari & Humphrey Bower

An intimate duet for actor and musician, a story about learning to live wherever we find ourselves. To coexist with people who are already here. And learning to belong here by coming to terms with who we are, and who we can be here.

A site-responsive work tailor-made (and re-made) for found venues and their communities.

★★★★1/2 “Captivating” *Arts Hub*

About Humphrey Bower

Humphrey Bower is an actor, director and writer based in Perth. He's worked across the country in theatre, opera, dance, puppetry, film, TV, radio, and is in high demand as an audio book narrator.

His impressive performance, writing and directing CV includes a number of literary adaptations for the stage. These include *The Apparatus*, *WISH*, *Raising the Dead/Fyodor's Demons* and *The Red Shoes*.

Company Contact Details

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facebook.com/HumphreyBower

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Image: Daniel Grant Pictured: Humphrey Bower

About The Show



Image: Daniel Grant Pictured: Humphrey Bower

This is a story about learning to live wherever we find ourselves. To coexist with people who are already here. And learning to belong here by coming to terms with who we are, and who we can be here.

Seminal Australian classic novel *An Imaginary Life* by David Malouf has been adapted by actor Humphrey Bower (*Things I Know to be True*, *Mary Stuart*, *The Tempest*) and is performed by Humphrey and live musician Pavan Kumar Hari.

An Imaginary Life is about the Ancient Roman poet Ovid living in exile on the edge of the Black Sea, and his encounter with a 'wild child'. He teaches the child to speak and learns about the latter's connection to nature and life.

An intimate duet for actor and musician, the show is presented in found spaces with great acoustics, with the audience seated in close proximity around the performers.

It contains no recorded or amplified sound, and has no rigged lighting. Just the performers, the space, and one small flood light on the floor.

An Imaginary Life is a site-responsive work tailor-made (and re-made) for found venues and their communities.

Creative Team

Created by: Humphrey Bower & Kingsley Reeve

Co directors: Humphrey Bower & James Berlyn

Performers: Humphrey Bower & Pavan Kumar Hari

Sound design/composition: Kingsley Reeve & Pavan Kumar Hari

Visual design: Zoe Atkinson

Creative producer: Libby Klysz


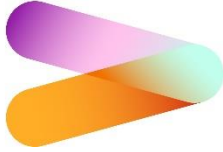


Image: Daniel Grant Pictured: Pavan Kumar Hari

Marketing Information + Billing Requirements

Any variation to the requirements below must be agreed with Steamworks Arts.

Billing	<p>[The Presenter] and Humphrey Bower & Libby Klysz present <i>AN IMAGINARY LIFE</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p>[The Presenter] presents Humphrey Bower & Libby Klysz' <i>AN IMAGINARY LIFE</i></p>
Artist Credits	<p>Adapted from the novel by David Malouf</p> <p>Created by: Humphrey Bower & Kingsley Reeve Co directors: Humphrey Bower & James Berlyn Performers: Humphrey Bower & Pavan Kumar Hari</p> <p>Sound design/composition: Kingsley Reeve & Pavan Kumar Hari</p> <p>Visual design: Zoe Atkinson</p>
Copy 40 word version	<p>An intimate, compelling duet for actor and musician, <i>An Imaginary Life</i> is a story about learning to live wherever we find ourselves. Adapted from the classic Australian novel by David Malouf, and performed by Humphrey and live musician Pavan Kumar Hari.</p>
85 word version For season brochures/ flyers, program guide listings	<p>An intimate, compelling duet for actor and musician, a story about learning to live wherever we find ourselves. To coexist with people who are already here. And learning to belong here by coming to terms with who we are, and who we can be here.</p> <p>Adapted from the classic Australian novel by David Malouf, and performed by Humphrey and live musician Pavan Kumar Hari, it's a site-responsive work tailor-made (and re-made) for found venues and their communities.</p> <p>★★★★1/2 "Captivating" <i>Arts Hub</i> "Spell-binding" <i>Magazine 6000</i></p>
180 word version For press releases	<p>This is a story about learning to live wherever we find ourselves. To coexist with people who are already here. And learning to belong here by coming to terms with who we are, and who we can be here.</p> <p>Seminal Australian classic novel <i>An Imaginary Life</i> by David Malouf has been adapted by actor Humphrey Bower (<i>Things I Know to be</i></p>

	<p><i>True, Mary Stuart, The Tempest</i>) and is performed by Humphrey and live musician Pavan Kumar Hari.</p> <p>An intimate and compelling duet for actor and musician, the show is presented in found spaces with great acoustics, in close proximity to the audience.</p> <p><i>An Imaginary Life</i> is about the Ancient Roman poet Ovid living in exile on the edge of the Black Sea, and his encounter with a ‘wild child’. He teaches the child to speak and learns about the latter’s connection to nature and life.</p> <p><i>An Imaginary Life</i> is a site-responsive work tailor-made (and re-made) for found venues and their communities.</p> <p>★★★★1/2 “Captivating” <i>Arts Hub</i> “Spell-binding” <i>Magazine 6000</i> “Timeless, intimate and profound” <i>Post Newspapers</i> “Bower is an innate wordsmith” <i>Perth Arts Live</i></p>
Logos	Presenter logos as per request
Acknowledgements	<p>The logos for the Department of Local Government, Sport & Cultural Industries must be used</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-around;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries</p> </div>  </div> <p>https://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/funding/logo-and-acknowledgement#logo-placement</p>
Image credits	Poster image and Production images by Daniel Grant Trailer by Jessica Russell
Duration	60 minutes
Warnings	Nil
Age recommendation	Recommended for ages 14+

What is *An Imaginary Life* about?

An Imaginary Life is about the Ancient Roman poet Ovid living in exile on the edge of the Black Sea, and his encounter with a ‘wild child’. He teaches the child to speak and learns about the latter’s connection to nature and life.

It’s adapted from the novel by David Malouf.

But you don’t need to have read the novel or know anything about Ovid to understand this show. It’s not an English Literature exam.

It’s also about lots of things relevant to us now: about learning to live wherever we find ourselves. To coexist with people who are already here. And learning to belong here by coming to terms with who we are, and who we can be here.

An Imaginary Life is a duet for an actor and a musician. It’s like listening to a story, and it feels a big magic to be in the room.

Artist Bios

Humphrey Bower

Humphrey Bower is an actor, director and writer based in Perth. He’s worked across the country in theatre, opera, dance, puppetry, film, TV, radio and audio book narration.

Recent credits include: *The Children* (Black Swan State Theatre Company, Heath Ledger Theatre, 2024), *Things I Know To Be True* (Bob, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Heath Ledger Theatre, 2023), *The Persians* (director, Hayman Theatre Company, Curtin University), *Nocturne* (adaptor/director/co-performer, The Lab, Adelaide, 2022), *The Duel* (adaptor/director, WA Opera, Government House Ballroom, 2022), *Mary Stuart* (Burleigh, Perth Festival, Heath Ledger Theatre, 2022), *The Tempest* (Prospero, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Octagon Theatre, 2021), and *Julius Caesar* (director, WAAPA 3rd Year Acting, Subiaco Theatre Centre, 2021), *Savage Grace* (Rob, Steamworks, Rehearsal Room 1, State Theatre Centre WA, 2021), *The Cherry Orchard* (Pishchik, Black Swan/Perth Festival, 2021); *The Golem* (co-devisor/performer, The Blue Room Theatre, 2020); *The Misanthrope* (director, WAAPA 3rd Year Acting, The Roundhouse, 2019); *The Apparatus* (writer/director/performer, The Blue Room, 2019); and *Sunset* (writer/performer, STRUT/Perth Festival, 2019).

Awards include the 2021 Performing Arts WA Award for Best Independent Production (*The Golem*); 2020 Performing Arts WA Award for Best Actor (Male) and 2019 Blue Room Award for Best Performance (*The Apparatus*); 2013 Equity Guild Award for Best New Play (*Skin*); 2012 Blue Room Award for Best Production (*Skin*); 2011 Blue Room Members’ Choice Award and Best Performance Award (*Wish*); and 2010 Helpmann Award for Best Supporting Actor (*Richard III*).

Kingsley Reeve

Kingsley is a professional sound storyteller with over 28 years experience. He graduated from the Sound discipline at WAAPA in 1995 as a sound designer and then from the Theatre discipline in 1998 as an actor. He has been designing sound and music since his youth. He forges collaborative relationships with story makers in Australia and abroad. Between 2014-18, he was the lead sound

design lecturer at NIDA. He is the recipient of several industry awards for sound and music design. Recent works include: “Boorna Waanginy: The Trees Speak” (PIAF), “Australian Outback Spectacular” (Village Roadshow Gold Coast), “Renew: Forest Experience” (Scitech Discovery Centre), “Ngalang Koort Boodja Wirn” (WA Museum).

Zoe Atkinson

Zoë Atkinson studied Scenography at The Prague Academy of The Performing Arts and The International Institute of Figurative Theatre (Czech Republic) under Petr Matásek; and at the Institut International de la Marionette in France, under Josef Svoboda. Since returning to Australia in 1997 she has designed nationally and internationally for theatre, dance, puppetry, opera and exhibitions. She has worked extensively over many years with Perth Festival, and in 2016 was Designer and Artistic Associate to Nigel Jamieson on the opening event HOME, and again in 2017 and 2019 on BOORNA WAANGINY: THE TREES SPEAK. In 2017 and 2018, she was also cultural translator and designer for UK artist Amy Sharrock's Perth Festival iteration for THE MUSEUM OF WATER. She was Head of Design at the West Australian Academy of Performing Arts, and she continues to lecture there.

Zoë's theatre credits include: THE RETURN (Malthouse Theatre); THE SMALLEST STAGE (Perth Festival); THE TEMPEST, YORK (Black Swan State Theatre Company); BESIDE (WAYTCO); HECATE (Yirra Yaakin/Black Swan); BLACK BRASS (Perth Festival/Belvoir); THE LIFE OF GALILEO (Belvoir); CLOUDSTREET (Malthouse/Black Swan); PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK (Malthouse, Barbican); PLAINSONG, AWAY, COPENHAGEN, THE UNEXPECTED MAN, THE CARNIVORES, UNCLE VANYA, THE CRUCIBLE, JANDAMARRA, SIGNS OF LIFE, XENIDES AND THE CHERRY ORCHARD (Black Swan); and the remount of THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST (Malthouse) which she originally designed for the Barbican BITE Festival (London) and the Brisbane Powerhouse.

Zoë won a Helpmann Award for Best Costume Design for THE ODYSSEY (Malthouse Theatre, Black Swan); and Green Room Awards for Best Theatre Production for the co-devised ON THE MISCONCEPTION OF OEDIPUS (Malthouse Theatre), and Best Design for LAWN (The Splinter Group); Equity Awards for Best Design for THE CRUCIBLE (Black Swan) and SKIN TIGHT (Perth Theatre Company). In 2000, Zoë was awarded the Young Australian of the Year for the Arts.

Pavan Kumar Hari

Pavan Kumar Hari is a composer, performer, dancer and director who creates vibrant, dynamic, expressive and dramatic music for theatre, film, dance and the concert hall. Pavan has been performing since the age of three in dance and music productions and has always loved the performing arts. He began to study dance and music in Perth at *Saraswati Mahavidhyalaya*, the Indian School of Performing Arts. He then progressed to study Composition and Percussion at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts, where he plays percussion and piano, and is currently completing the fourth year of his Bachelor of Music degree (Honours). As a performer he was recently in *Once* (BSSTC/ Darlington Theatre Co, 2022) and *The Tempest* (BSSTC, 2022), for which he was also the composer. Many of his works have been premiered by the award-winning Defying Gravity percussion ensemble. Pavan has been a member of the Western Australian Youth Orchestra, Western Australian Charity Orchestra, Western Australian Wind Symphony, and Defying Gravity Percussion Ensemble, and the Australian Youth Orchestra's National Music Camp. He has also performed with the Perth Symphony Orchestra as a guest artist on the Indian drums known as tabla.

Libby Klysz

Libby Klysz is a producer, director, teacher and performer. She was the WA Producer of the Year, 2023. She has worked with companies such as Perth Festival, The Blue Room Theatre, The Last Great Hunt, Black Swan State Theatre Company, Barking Gecko Theatre, and WAAPA over the past 20 years. A freelance producer of both touring and non-touring works for over a decade, recent projects include *An Imaginary Life* (Humphrey Bower 2024), *Under Fluoros* (Performing Lines WA, 2024), *I'm With Her* Darwin Festival, Ten Days on the Island & Perth Festival (Half the Sky 2022, Midwinter Productions 2023-24), *Performing Arts WA Awards* (2023-24), *Hide the Dog* Perth Festival

(Performing Lines Tasmania, 2023), *The Hypotheticals* (The Last Great Hunt, 2023), *JULIA* and *Savage Grace* (Steamworks Arts, 2021-22); *Creative Weekender* (Perth Festival 2022), *The Golem* and *The Apparatus* (Humphrey Bower, 2020 & 2019), *My Robot* (Barking Gecko Theatre, 2019), *Wonder Woman* (Laura Boynes, 2019), and *BANG! BANG!* (Scott Elstermann & Shona Erskine, 2019-2022).

Libby heads up Variegated Productions, creating award winning theatre shows such as *Ragnarokkr* (2020), *Frankie's* (2018), *The Man and The Moon* (2016), *Ramshackle & Kitsch* (2017). She was the Associate Director on Black Swan's *The Tempest* (2021), most recently directed Kaitlin Tinker's theatre show *Earthside* (2022) at The Blue Room Theatre; and directed Charlotte Otton in the heavily lauded touring show *Feminah* (2019). Libby is an original and ongoing cast member of *The Big HOO-HAA!*, and currently sits as the Artistic Director. Libby lectures at ECU and WAAPA; advocates for the sector a lot; and is on the current boards of CircuitWest and Chamber of Arts & Culture WA. She champions WA talent at every opportunity.

FAQs

Does David Malouf know about this show?

Yes. The show was made with full support of Malouf, and we have permission to use his story.

What do you mean by found space?

A found space is a building that isn't usually used for performances. This show is performed in buildings that are "on the edge of things", like abandoned buildings, historical places or a spot that's on the edge of town.

There is no amplified or recorded sound in the show, nor is there any fancy stage lights. It's just the two performers and a small floodlight- so you can listen to the voices and the music play with the sound of the space.

Is this one of those Contemporary shows only for arty folks?

No. We have worked very hard to make this a truly accessible show for audiences. You don't have to be well versed in theatre or literature to get it. In fact, this show often attracts audience members that haven't been to theatre shows before.

Target Audience

- Theatre and festival going audiences
- Literature nerds and book club types
- People who like "different" experiences
- History buffs
- Live music fans

Selling Points

- It's performed in interesting buildings
- Based on the novel by David Malouf
- Humphrey Bower is an acclaimed performer, including as one of Australia's most popular audiobook narrators
- Stories of migration and belonging to country are very relevant right now
- The show asks you to pause and listen to the space you are in
- *An Imaginary Life* sold out its premiere run, including extra seats.

What the Press says about *An Imaginary Life*

★★★★1/2 "Captivating" *Arts Hub*

<https://www.artshub.com.au/news/reviews/theatre-review-an-imaginary-life-moores-building-art-space-fremantle-2737300/>

"Spell-binding"

"For an hour in a slightly chilly art gallery in Freo we were entranced by Ovid and the boy he cares for, and when we are released from the story's spell it feels like breaking the surface of a cold lake, changed in ways that cannot be explained.

This minimalist production proves that good theatre is made not by extravagance and fancy tech, but by talented creatives pooling their skills to tell a great story."

Magazine 6000

<https://magazine6000.com/review/a-spellbinding-story-an-imaginary-life/>

"Timeless, intimate and profound" *Post Newspapers*

<https://www.facebook.com/postnewspapers>

"Bower is an innate wordsmith" *Perth Arts Live*

<https://pertharts.live/2024/07/22/review-an-imaginary-life-humphrey-bower-libby-klysz/>

Community Engagement

In season

- Soundwalks with sound designer Kingsley Reeve are available. Kingsley will walk with small groups on an acoustic awareness tour of the venue and surroundings, facilitating the process of truly listening: tuning into the architecture, the land, each other and self. The tour is supported by a small pack of prompt cards that suggest ways to listen to what is around you.

The theatre performance, *An Imaginary Life* responds to the natural acoustics of a room and resonates with what already exists. This site responsive process will be shared and embedded in this listening experience.

Suitable for those ear-minded, just curious or those that have attended *An Imaginary Life*.

- We have worked with visually impaired communities and can attest the show is very suitable for those audience members that usually require audio description. A tactile tour is available pre-show.
- We are flexible and experienced in community engagement and would love to work with you and your community to create something bespoke for your needs.

Pre season

An Imaginary Life can be presented in a residency or touring format. The team loves coming to communities early and getting to know your community.

We'd love to work with you on how best to get amongst your community.

Images

Production stills: images by Daniel Grant

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/44mwm2kt9lckjuhxvtgmq/AEfbVZH7k0sZeRTL8-l1WaU?rlkey=3l4ood8hbqatnzv5hznym0qj7&dl=0>

Hero graphic: images by Daniel Grant

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/pjvtn3b39u4335yco0d06/AIL-Hero-shot_-image-by-Daniel-Grant.jpg?rlkey=b4t8lwssk2j1ddgmx8e420piv&dl=0

Video trailers

Teaser trailer: shot and edited by Jessica Russell (portrait layout also available)

<https://vimeo.com/1005109065>

Sizzle reel: shot and edited by Jessica Russell

<https://vimeo.com/1013444022>

Collateral

Program

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/w7bpjd60symyxrtv2y8h1/AiL-program-2024.pdf?rlkey=xl5735ab54yke3dnpzehxggjt&dl=0>

Poster

https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ea2l18gmgeta35geo2cet/AiL_Poster_Final2_A3-3mm-Bleed-_print.pdf?rlkey=lgcdwb3rjni4mcoz6nffnbiyd&dl=0

E-Marketing Resources

Facebook

@HumphreyBower

Instagram

@humphreybower_artist

Interviews

Humphrey Bower is available for interviews. To arrange an interview please contact Libby Klysz via libbyklysz@gmail.com

Marketing Support

This pack contains various tools to help you market *An Imaginary Life*. Should you require any further marketing support please contact Creative Producer Libby Klysz via libbyklysz@gmail.com