

# REASONS TO STAY iNSiDE

---

MARKETING KIT



**BARKING  
GECKO** ARTS

## ABOUT BARKING GECKO ARTS

At Barking Gecko Arts, imagination takes centre stage, and creativity knows no bounds. They deliver experiences that unlock the world's opportunities through the magic of the arts. Engaging with them allows humans of all ages to 'Imagine Bigger,' explore new possibilities, and broaden their horizons.

For over 35 spectacular years, they have been dedicated to crafting world-class, award-winning arts experiences through the legacy brands of Barking Gecko Theatre and AWESOME Arts, designed to entertain, nourish, and inspire young minds. They offer a kaleidoscope of arts experiences that blend quality with boundless creativity, from captivating theatre performances and vibrant festivals to dynamic workshops and innovative school programs.

Barking Gecko Arts believes that the arts are more than just entertainment—they're a superpower for building essential future skills, broadening perspectives, and nurturing connections.

Barking Gecko Arts' programs are thoughtfully curated to foster creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, agility, curiosity, confidence, and emotional intelligence. Each experience is crafted to be as educational as it is entertaining, ensuring kids have a blast and explore new ideas, hone their skills, and gear up for the adventures that await.

They invite everyone to join them on an exhilarating journey of growth, discovery, and endless opportunity through artistic exploration, believing that together, we have the power to imagine the brightest future.

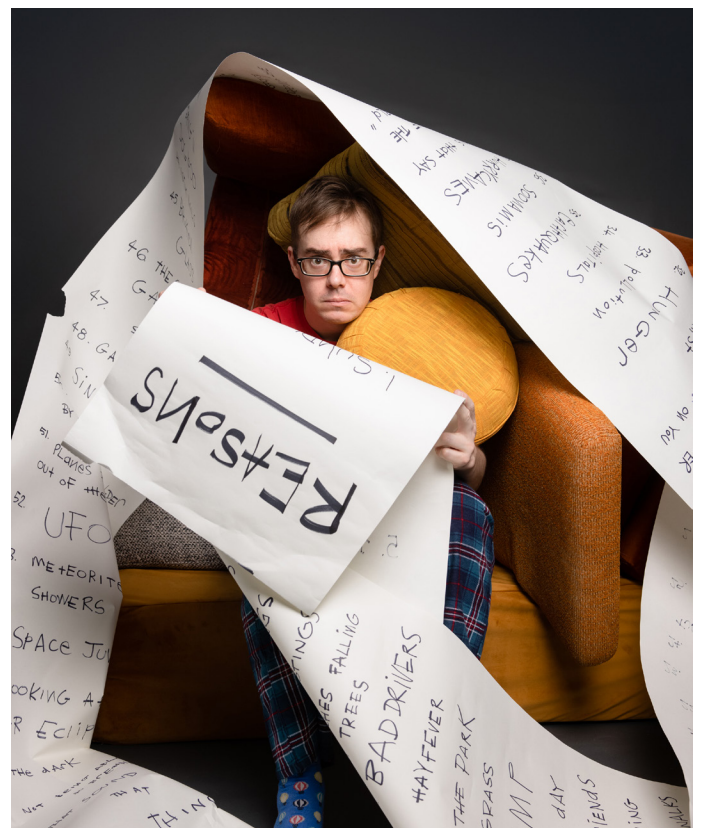
Barking Gecko Arts is honoured to work on Whadjuk Country, the ancestral lands of the Noongar people.

## ABOUT REASONS TO STAY INSIDE

*Reasons to Stay Inside* is a delightful show that will have young audiences laughing out loud and embracing their bestie. Tackling children's mental health with insight and positivity the production encourages resilience, peer support, and open conversation about emotions.

*Reasons to Stay Inside* engages audiences at the height of their emotional intelligence and asks them to imagine how they would support a friend. It's playful, hilarious and is an excellent fit for primary school kids.

*Reasons to Stay Inside* was first performed at the 2015 Melbourne Fringe Festival and 2016 Perth Fringe World Festival, The Blue Room Theatre's, Summer Nights Program.



## A NOTE FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT

The year I turned 13 was the year I started high school, and the year anxiety moved in.

We didn't know it was anxiety. Mum and me. We had no idea what it was or even that it could, possibly, have a name. All we knew was that school drop-off became hell. For her and me.

I couldn't leave the car.

I really couldn't.

It was like I was too heavy for my body, and everything was in slow motion, and I felt sick and exhausted, and my heart was pounding – boom, boom, boom, boom – and I was hot and cold and empty and sweaty and red-faced and cracked-lipped, and I was going to be sick or faint...

I couldn't join that group of girls who met under the veranda by the library and greeted everyone with a hug as if they hadn't seen each other for years. I didn't know what to say. I didn't know what to do with my hands. I didn't know how to arrange my face.

Of course, they wouldn't know this. I would get there, eventually, or not. Some days, Mum would say let's go home but not always, not every day, and on those days, I would get there because I had to. I would join in. None of them would have known. None of them would have noticed the tears in my eyes and the lump in my throat and the tremble in my hands.

I wasn't good at the things you are meant to be good at in high school: school camp, parties, hanging out, and sleepovers. That sort of thing. I think I may have been good at it once, but something happened inside me, and I would overthink it, worry, and talk myself into not going. So, I wouldn't go. Unless I had to. And when I did, because I had to, I was fine, of course. I could fake it with the best of them. No one noticed.

They didn't notice and couldn't be expected to notice. Why would they? By the time I was in my final year of high school I was pretty good at faking it and had fooled mostly everyone.

But I was struggling. With anxiety.

I could get out of the car, and I had figured out how to arrange my face and what to say, but I still hadn't mastered that other stuff. That important stuff. I didn't turn up to parties or just go and hang out with friends after school or on the weekends because I didn't think I would know how to act. I played versions of these events in my mind, over and over again, until I felt sick and got a stomachache. Thank goodness I can't go now.

Friends get annoyed at that sort of thing. Of course they do. You find yourself not invited. Removed from the inner circle. Alone.

Anxiety feels like such an issue of privilege ... Part of you thinks, how dare I be anxious? It is really quite ridiculous. But it's true. And it's there. And it is the reason I sometimes stay inside and still miss my friend's party or the opening night of their play or their phone call... but now I have the words. I can talk about it now. My friends understand. Now I am not alone.

*Reasons to Stay Inside* is about a boy who becomes so anxious that he builds a giant pillow fort and refuses to leave it. His best friend does all she can to get him out. Nothing works ... but she doesn't leave him. She stays. She waits. He is never alone. Not really.

Anxiety is awful. Having a friend with anxiety is awful. I wrote the play I wish I'd seen when I was 12, going on 13. I've written the best friend I wish I had had back then. I have written something I hope will get the conversation started and make it easier for young people to talk about anxiety. Make them feel less alone.



# MARKETING COPY

## BILLING

(The Presenter) presents  
A Barking Gecko Arts production  
*Reasons to Stay Inside* by Katy Warner

## CREATIVE BILLING

<b>Playwright</b>	<a href="#">Katy Warner</a>
<b>Director</b>	<a href="#">Sam Longley</a>
<b>Set &amp; Costume Designer</b>	<a href="#">Bryan Woltjen</a>
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	<a href="#">Lucy Birkinshaw</a>
<b>Composer &amp; Sound Designer</b>	<a href="#">Rebecca Riggs-Bennett</a>

## CAST BILLING

<b>Pedro</b>	<a href="#">Dan Buckle</a>
<b>Flora</b>	<a href="#">Tamara Creasey</a>

## SHOW COPY

### Marketing tag/byline (under 20 words)

Pegacorns, pillow forts, and the power of friendship. Some battles you don't have to fight alone.

### Short description (under 50 words)

Pedro used to run, skateboard, and go to school. Now he stays inside building an epic pillow fort called 'The Death Star.' His best friend Flora knows what he's missing and will do whatever it takes to help him find his way back outside.

### Long description (under 150 words)

Pedro used to run, skateboard, play soccer, and go to school... Not anymore. Pedro stays inside now.

His best friend Flora thinks that's boring and kind of freaky. But Pedro doesn't care. He's building a pillow fort (he would prefer you call it 'The Death Star'), and it's getting bigger. Every day, it's getting harder for Flora to reach him.

Pedro has the best reasons to stay inside, but Flora knows what he's missing. She will do whatever it takes to get her best friend to come outside.

You can't stay inside your fort forever, can you?

A show about best friends, a dancing pegacorn, pillow forts, and that weird anxious feeling.

## SHOW INFORMATION

<b>Genre</b>	Theatre
<b>Duration</b>	55 minutes (no interval)
<b>Recommended age</b>	7+
<b>Recommended audiences</b>	Primary school students (Years 3 - 6), teachers, and families
<b>Content warnings</b>	Contains themes of anxiety and emotional wellbeing
<b>Themes</b>	Mental health, friendship, courage, resilience



## QUOTES, REVIEW, AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

"Exceptional. Wonderfully acted and directed, excellent childhood issues, stunning set. Highly recommended." - Audience Member at 2025 AWESOME Festival

"Excellent and so relevant to children today. Fun and engaging but with a strong message." - Audience Member at 2025 AWESOME Festival

"Outstanding. My 6.5-year-old son said it was the best thing he has ever seen" - Audience Member at 2025 AWESOME Festival

a moment that that won't be bettered this Fringe"

★★★★½ David Zampatti, [The West Australian](#)

- Winner of the 2015 Melbourne Fringe Award Best Kids Show
- Nominee of the 2015 Green Room Awards for Best Director (Prue Clark)
- Nominee of the 2016 FRINGE WORLD West Australian Arts Editor Award
- Winner of the 2016 Australian Writer's Guild Award (AWGIE) for Children's Theatre



# MARKETING ASSETS & COLLATERAL

## MARKETING COLLATERAL

<b>Illustration</b>	<a href="#">LINK</a> (Artwork by Jasmine Berry)
<b>Title Treatment/Logo</b>	<a href="#">LINK</a>
<b>Promotional Images</b>	<a href="#">LINK</a> (Image credit: Dan Grant)
<b>Production Images</b>	<a href="#">LINK</a> (Image credit: Dan Grant)

## VIDEOS

<b>Trailer</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/1179480324">https://vimeo.com/1179480324</a>
<b>Archival</b> <b>NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION</b>	<a href="https://vimeo.com/1179088908">https://vimeo.com/1179088908</a> Password: pegacorn

## LOGOS, CREDITS & APPROVALS

### Logos

The following logos must be included on all advertising and promotional materials associated with the 2025 season of *Reasons to Stay Inside*, including, but not limited to: season brochures, flyers, posters, advertisements, media releases, promotional videos, web pages, and programs.

1. [Barking Gecko Arts](#)
2. [Government of WA & Lotterywest](#)
3. [Creative Australia](#)
4. [Wright Burt Foundation](#)
5. [Peter & Elizabeth Moore Foundation](#)

Barking Gecko Arts will provide:

- 1x Cast & Creatives AO Corflute Board
- 1x Sponsor AO Corflute Board
- 2x pull-up banners for the season.

### Music Credit

Dance The Night  
Written by: Ailin/Lipa/Ronson/Wyatt  
Hi Fi Asset Acquisition Co LP BMI, Songs of Zelig, WBD  
Music AS, WBD Music B  
Administered by: Universal Music Publishing Pty Ltd



## WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

<b>Links</b>	<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.barkinggecko.com.au">www.barkinggecko.com.au</a> <a href="http://writtenbywarner.com">writtenbywarner.com</a>
<b>Hashtags</b>	<b>Facebook:</b> @barkinggeckoarts
	<b>Instagram:</b> @barkinggeckoarts @warner_katy
	#imaginebigger #reasonstostayinside

## CONTACTS

Barking Gecko Arts Office  
 Subiaco Arts Centre, Level 2, 180 Hamersley Road, Subiaco WA 6008  
 e: [gecko@barkinggecko.com.au](mailto:gecko@barkinggecko.com.au)  
 ph: (08) 6184 4905

### Marketing & Publicity

Aiman Ridzuan-Morley, Manager, Audience & Belonging  
 e: [aiman.ridzuan-morley@barkinggecko.com.au](mailto:aiman.ridzuan-morley@barkinggecko.com.au)  
 m: +61 404 582 353

### Production

Stewart Campbell, Production Manager  
 e: [stewart.campbell@barkinggecko.com.au](mailto:stewart.campbell@barkinggecko.com.au)  
 m: +61 407 817 077

### Touring

Natalie Di Rasio, Manager, Creative Sector, Development & Growth  
 e: [natalie.dirisio@barkinggecko.com.au](mailto:natalie.dirisio@barkinggecko.com.au)  
 m: +61 411 341 643

Rebecca Nelson, Producer, New Works, Tour Delivery & Artistic Programs  
 e: [rebecca.nelson@barkinggecko.com.au](mailto:rebecca.nelson@barkinggecko.com.au)  
 m: +61 416 843 444

We thank you for your interest in *Reasons to Stay Inside* and we look forward to bringing this delightful show to your community.