



VOICES OF JOAN

Anu Almagro & Janie Gibson

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Photo by Gabbriel Almagro

A Radical Feminist Punk Ritual

Now more than ever we need to draw inspiration from the galvanising wisdom of rebels; people who are not afraid to speak truth to power and have the courage to take action.

Voices of Joan is a radical feminist punk ritual that calls on the spirit of rebel icon Joan of Arc. In an intimate performance, theatre-maker Janie Gibson unravels the tangled threads of misogyny and catholicism as she searches for Joan's story in fragments of history, poetry, letters she wrote, plays written about her and the transcript of Joan's trial for heresy. Directed by Anu Almagro (*Song of the Goat Theatre*) the artists tune into echoes of Joan in acts of courage and oppression throughout history, in search of a road map for resistance in our uncertain times.

Nominated BEST COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN Green Room Awards

"Janie has established herself as a powerful and original performance maker" Realtime Arts

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Documentation

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/390644795>

Full Performance: <https://vimeo.com/379735762> [password: Joan]

Presentation Context

Voices Of Joan can be performed in a wide range of spaces, from black box/studio theatres, to halls and warehouse/industrial spaces, of a minimum stage size approximately 4m x 6m. The performance requires loose seating (details to be discussed with the artists). Risk assessment from previous presentations available.

Performance History

Development: L'Escorxador Cultural Centre, Elche Spain | July / August 2019

Premier: L'Escorxador Cultural Centre in Elche Spain | August 2019

Presentation: Melbourne Fringe Festival | September 2019.

Future Presentations: Adelaide Fringe Festival | March 2020

Newcastle Fringe Festival (Australia) | March 2020

Credits

Performer and Creator: Janie Gibson

Director and Creator: Anu Almagro

Composition & Sound Design: Liesl Pieterse

Additional Composition: Xani Kolac and Toecutter

Fight Choreography: Gabriel Almagro



Photo by Rachel Ferry

Contact

Anu Almagro (Director)

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About the Artists

Janie Gibson is an actor, theatre-maker and teaching artist based in Melbourne, Australia. She uses the ritual of theatre as a forum for human connection; a site to hold radical ideas, witness multivalent perspectives and offer counter-narratives to the confinements of the dominant culture. She practices in the lineage of Eastern European ensemble theatre and devised contemporary performance. Through theatre she reimagines stories from history, myths, imagination, memory and personal experience and uses the ritual of drama, language, poetry, character, live music, singing and heightened physicality to play in the dynamic relationship of actor, ensemble and audience. She has developed and presented work in Australia with PACT, Tantrum Youth Arts, NEXT WAVE, Underbelly Arts, Urban Theatre Projects and Performance Space; and internationally with Odra Ensemble (Song of the Goat Theatre, Poland), Shakespeare & Company (U.S.A) and ULTIMAVEZ (Belgium). Most recently she was designated as a Linklater Voice teacher.



Performer: Janie Gibson. Photo by Natasha Blankfield

Anu Almagro (Salonen) is a Finnish actress and acting teacher working internationally around the globe. Her interest in performance work, deeply rooted in cultural traditions and born out of authentic and energetic connection between people, drove her to Poland for the first time in 2004. In 2007 she became a member of Teatr Piesn Kozla/ Song of the Goat Theatre, an international award winning theatre company based in Wroclaw, Poland and a teacher of the company's unique Coordination technique. The company tours throughout the world and performs in venues such as The BAM, New York and The Globe, London. She created her own theatre company, Odra Ensemble, which trained and performed in Wroclaw, Poland between 2011 and 2013. Finland based company Anu Almagro Actor Training Tmi follows invitations to share profound and holistic acting technique workshops with professional theatre makers as well with students throughout the world.

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Liesl Pieterse is a sound designer, composer, musician and filmmaker. In Post Production Sound she has been credited on over 50 Australian and International feature films including Red Dog, The Dressmaker, Peter Rabbit, Mary Magdalene and Animal Kingdom. In this capacity she has worked with internationally renowned directors and actors, won three ASSG (Australian Screen Sound Guild) awards and an ASSG nomination as Sound Designer for Best Sound in a Short Film (2018), Let's See How Fast This Baby Will Go. Liesl composes music for radio, short films and web series. Most recently she wrote and produced the musical theme for ABC Radio National's Life Matters. She is trained in classical piano and has studied Electronic Music Production at SAE in Berlin and at MESS Studios Melbourne. Liesl also creates and performs electronic music through her solo project Zellen and released her debut EP in October 2018. She has written and directed music videos and six short films which have screened at various festivals internationally. She received a Green Room award nomination for best sound design and composition for Voices Of Joan.



Performer: Janie Gibson. Photo by Natasha Blankfield



Performer: Janie Gibson. Photo by Natasha Blankfield

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Reviews Of Previous Work

"Art scintillates when brave and authentic...In bringing their audience their most authentic vulnerabilities, the artists compel us to connect, with the work and with each other. Enclosed and tethered, we think about the spaces we share, and the inevitability of our dependence on each other" Suzy Goes See HOME | Directed by Janie Gibson

"Wonderful to see young actors full of energy and passion bringing theatre to life in a very personal way." Theatre on the Town | HOME | Directed by Janie Gibson

"The ensemble cast is a dynamic group of young people who throw themselves into the show with gusto and enthusiasm. Together, they create worlds onstage with poetry, movement and music about what it means to be young in Newcastle. Interwoven stories of migration, war, loss and strength are laced throughout the show, as well as themes of diversity, feminism, family...and the plight of the millennial." Emma Jane, Weekend Notes
HOME | Directed by Janie Gibson



Performer: Janie Gibson. Photo by Natasha Blankfield

"Songs Of Lear by Teatr Piesn Kozła (Song Of The Goat Theatre) of Wrocław - which interweaves small fragments of Shakespeare's text with polyphonic song, carefully choreographed movement and live music - is not only the most deeply affecting show I have seen in Edinburgh this summer, it is also one of the most profoundly moving theatre productions I have ever experienced." The Herald
Songs Of Lear | Lead actress Anu Almagro

"Songs of the Goat create an ensemble that breathes together, infusing their work with a tightly disciplined energy that can be, in turn, raw and highly sophisticated. Their precision binds all of this into an impressive piece that lingers after the performers have bowed (to standing ovations) and the sweltering space has cleared, so that Songs of Lear continue to reverberate within you." Edinburgh Spotlight |Songs Of Lear | Lead actress Anu Almagro

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Previous Awards and Nominations

Anu Almagro

2018: "Gdansk Shakespeare Festival" Golden Yorick award finalist: "Hamlet- a commentary" by Teatr Piesn Kozla/ Song of The Goat Theatre, received an honorary award for the musical interpretation of Hamlet and exceptional singing techniques used in the performance.

2018: "Without borders International Theatre Festival", 28th edition in Cieszyn, Poland: The best Performance award for "Songs of Lear" by Teatr Piesn Kozla/ Song of The Goat Theatre

2017: "Warsaw Theatre Meetings" Festival: The best Ensemble, The best Choreography, The best Music awards for "Island" by Song of The Goat Theatre

2013: "Teatr" Magazine Poland yearly critics award: One of the Best Actresses of the season in Poland, Anu Almagro as Cordelia in "Songs of Lear" by Teatr Piesn Kozla/ Song of the Goat Theatre

2012: Edinburgh Fringe Festival: Scotsman Fringe First award, Herald Arcangel award and Musical Theatre Matters, Special award for "Songs of Lear" By Song of The Goat Theatre

2009: Europe Theatre Prize nomination: The Best Ensemble theatre company Teatr Piesn Kozła/ Song of the Goat Theatre

Janie Gibson

WINNER BEST NEW WORK THE PLASTIC BEACH
. Newcastle Fringe 2019 | Janie Gibson (assistant director)

NOMINATED BEST DIRECTION HOME
Conda Awards 2017 | Janie Gibson (Director)

NOMINATED BEST NEW WORK HOME
Conda Awards 2017 | Creative team

Liesl Pieterse

NOMINATED BEST COMPOSITION & SOUND DESIGN VOICES OF JOAN
Green Room Awards 2020 | Liesl Pieterse

Technical Specifications

Presenting team

Performer: 1

Sound Designer/Technician: 1

Lighting Operator: 1

Director: 1

Total : 4

Running Time:

60mins no interval

Performance Space

Black box/studio theatre or warehouse/industrial spaces, of a minimum stage size approximately 4m x 6m. The performance require loose seating (details to be discussed with the artists).

Lighting

Standard Lighting rig required for the below states:

- Three spotlights (one centre, one stage right, one stage left)
- General Warm Wash
- Romance Pink/purple Wash
- Dim Cool Blue/Purple Wash

Sound

Venue to provide

- Large PA Speakers (and sub if available)
- One microphone stand
- 1 x long mic cable (20m)
- 1 x sound mixing desk
- 2 x XLR Cables
- 3 x ¼ inch Jack cables

Company to provide

- 1 x Laptop with Ableton Live
- 1 x Akai APC mini
- 1 x SM58 microphone
- 1 x BOSS RC-202 loop machine
- 1 x electric guitar

Set & props

Voices Of Joan contains a number of props and objects used throughout the performance.

Venue to provide (if available)

- 1 x trestle table
- 1 x chair

Company to provide

- 1 x stage sword
- 1 x megaphone
- 1 x ceramic cup
- 1 x spoon
- 1 x torch
- Stack of paper
- 1 x Mobile phone
- 1 x bucket of water
- 1 x chair
- 1 x clothes rack
- 1 x cajon
- 1 x crate of candles
- 1 x lighter

Travel and freight

This performance, inclusive of set, props and presenting team, can travel by plane, train or car. Low carbon emissions travel is preferred.