

Amy Hardingham

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Bio:

Amy Hardingham is a director and theatre maker with an interest in inventive and original works of scale, site-specific performance, and socially-engaged theatre practises. Much of Amy's work has been created in collaboration with professional and emerging artists from various disciplines, and in response to the needs and concerns of specific communities. Amy has extensive experience in directing theatre with young people, and creating work that is relevant to, and meaningful for, young audiences.

Amy was the Artistic Director of Tantrum Youth Arts from 2013-2016. During her time at Tantrum she staged acclaimed productions including Lachlan Philpott's *The Chosen*, and original site-specific works *Diving off the Edge of the World*, *Stories in Our Steps*, and *Manning the Fort*, and drove a range of innovative skills and new work development initiatives for young and emerging artists.

Amy has directed work by writers including Alana Valentine (commission and original site-specific production of *Eyes to the Floor*, Outback Theatre), Tom Holloway (*The Bus*, Edinburgh Fringe), Van Badham (*Five Feminist Microdramas*, *An Anarchist at Dinner*, *Material Girls*, *Dole Diary*) and Lachlan Philpott (*Bustown*, ATYP). Previous roles include Artistic Director of Outback Theatre for Young People from 2004-2008, Regional Manager at Australian Theatre for Young People (atyp) from 2008-2010, Associate Producer on BighArt's *Namatjira* in 2012, and Acting Head of Education, Bell Shakespeare (2017-2018).

Amy has a BA in Performance Studies and History from the University of Sydney, a Graduate Diploma in Arts Management from UTS, and a Graduate Diploma in Secondary Drama Teaching from Charles Sturt University. In 2008 Amy was a recipient of the Australia Council for the Arts Kirk Robson award in acknowledgment of her leadership in the arts and community cultural development. Currently, Amy lectures in Creative and Performing Arts at the University of Newcastle and works part time as Bell Shakespeare's Community Partnerships Advisor, while freelancing as a director/ theatre maker.

Highlights – Directing:

***Manning the Fort* at Fort Scratchley Newcastle, concept, creative direction and script by Amy Hardingham, Tantrum Youth Arts, 2016**

"Experiencing a mass site specific historical portrait of women in Newcastle has been the highlight of my performance-going this year! It is this type of work - of scale and of significance that resonates across generations and leaves an indelible echo at the site"

- Augusta Supple, via email 2016

***Stories in Our Steps* on Watt St Newcastle, concept and creative direction Amy Hardingham, Tantrum Youth Arts, 2015.**

"I expected to enjoy it, I didn't expect to be utterly blown away by it ... It was stunning, it was powerful, it was utterly beautiful ... needs an entirely new book of superlatives for me to do it justice"

- Linda Drummond, PinkPatentMaryJanes.com, 2015

***The Chosen* by Lachlan Philpott, Director Amy Hardingham, Designer Nicola Barber, Tantrum Youth Arts, 2014, Civic Playhouse Newcastle and ATYP Sydney.**

"This is a sophisticated script for young people that has been sympathetically and cleverly cast and staged... Director Amy Hardingham demonstrates a clear comprehension of the multi-layered complexities of Lachlan Philpott's script... No review can do it justice"

- Michelle Gosper, Sydney Arts Guide, September 21, 2014

***Diving off the Edge of the World* at Newcastle Ocean Baths, concept and creative direction Amy Hardingham, Tantrum Youth Arts, 2014.**

"It was so unique, from the beautiful setting of the baths to the concept of 'the cruise', the passport, the closeness of the audience to the performances ... Each different part was special in its own way"

***Bustown* by Lachlan Philpott, Director Amy Hardingham, Designer Tobhiyah Feller, ATYP 2009.**

"Sharply directed by Amy Hardingham... Philpott's outback dystopia is satisfyingly complex"
- Jason Blake, *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26 September 2009.

"Amy Hardingham has lead an ensemble cast through Philpott's multilayered and innovative script with a huge amount of humour, delicacy and inventiveness"
- Augusta Supple, *augustasupple.com*, 5 October 2009.

"Under the tight directing of Amy Hardingham, Bustown comes across as quite a special beast"
- Chard Currie, *ArtsHub*, 6 October, 2009.

"This thoroughly absorbing production lingered in my imagination far longer than many more cerebral theatre offerings"
- Dee Jefferson, *The Brag*, 27 September 2009.

***Eyes to the Floor* at the Hay Gaol, Writer Alana Valentine, director Amy Hardingham, designer Nicola Barber, Outback Theatre for Young People, 2008.**

"You are to be commended for bringing such a powerful, socially relevant piece of theatre to fruition. I found the production, particularly having it set in the grounds of the Gaol, dramatically powerful. It was sensitively acted and creatively directed. It held and moved all of us in the audience"
- Audience member, *Eyes to the Floor*, April 2008, via email.

Other productions:

As Director:

2013 *House on Fire* (Debra Oswald) Tantrum Youth Arts/ Civic Playhouse
2013 *Romeo and Juliet*, Tantrum Youth Arts/ Gloucester Shakespeare Festival
2010 *Bustown* (Lachlan Philpott), Newtown High School for the Performing Arts.
2007 *Five Feminist Microdramas* (Van Badham), New Theatre.
2004 *The Bus* (Tom Holloway), Edinburgh Fringe Festival.
2004 *Untogether* (Morna Pearson), ATYP (under Mentorship from Marion Potts)
2004 *An Anarchist at Dinner* (Van Badham), Winner Best Play, Short & Sweet.
2003 *Material Girls* (Van Badham), Old Fitzroy Theatre/Theatre South.
2001 *Dole Diary* (Van Badham), Naked Theatre Company/ Griffin Theatre.

As Assistant Director:

2018 *Talkshow: Hypothetical* (dir. Rosie Dennis), Urban Theatre Projects/ Casula Powerhouse.
2004 *The Musicians* (Patrick Marber, dir. Tim Jones), atyp/ Sydney Opera House.
2003 *Beatrice* (Louis Nowra, dir. Tim Jones), atyp.
2003 *Skate* (Debra Oswald, dir. Tim Jones), atyp/ Belfast International Festival.
2002 *Bendy* (written and dir. Tommy Murphy), atyp.
2002 *The Crossing* (devised, dir. Melissa Bruce), atyp.

As Producer:

2017 *The Checkout Live for Schools* – Giant Dwarf
2013 *The Namatjira Project*, Big hART (Associate Producer)
2001 *Hamlet*, Porkchop Productions at Belvoir, (Assistant Producer)
1999 *Troy's House* (writer/ director Tommy Murphy), ATYP, TRS/Old Fitz, regional tour

Artistic Leadership Positions:

Acting Head of Education (Maternity leave cover)

2017 - 2018

Bell Shakespeare

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| Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Overseeing the delivery, creative direction and financial management of Bell Shakespeare's 2017-2018 Learning program.● Ensuring all programmes are delivered according to budget and schedule, marketed effectively, achieve set outcomes.● Development and delivery of a range of new initiatives including: Recruitment and training of First Nations Arts Educators, the pilot of a relaxed production for families in collaboration with Riverside Theatres, a collaboration with an educational psychologist to develop an emotional wellbeing program for schools, and collaboration with UTS Management Consulting students to map Bell's Education programs, resources and community outcomes with a view to improving impact assessment and identifying future research opportunities. |
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Artistic Director/ CEO

2013 - 2016

Tantrum Youth Arts

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| Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Artistic planning and programming● Creative leadership, writing, directing, and facilitating on a range of artistic projects (see http://www.tantrum.org.au/pastprojects.html)● Strategic partnerships and business management● Financial management & Human Resource management● Marketing, audience development and public relations● Grants, funding and sponsorship |
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Regional Manager

2008 - 2009

Australian Theatre for Young People (atyp)

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| Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Oversee the creative direction and delivery of the company's national regional outreach and community programs, including delivering long-term, ongoing residencies with public performance outcomes in communities including Tennant Creek and Palm Island.● Manage a wide range of artists and community partnerships with schools, youth services, local government, land councils and local arts organisations. |
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Artistic Director

2004 - 2008

Outback Theatre for Young People

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| Responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Artistic planning and programming for Outback Theatre.● Creative leadership, writing, directing, and facilitating on a range of artistic projects across ten local government areas in South West NSW● Directed and devised many productions with young people, mostly site-specific or outdoor.● Commissioned <i>Eyes to the Floor</i> by Alana Valentine. Developed the work over two years in collaboration with survivors of the Hay "Girls Home", young people from the Hay community, and professional artists. It was performed at the Hay Gaol Museum and Griffith Regional Theatre in May 2008. |
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Teaching positions:

Sessional Lecturer and Tutor

2017 & 2018

Creative and Performing Arts
University of Newcastle - Ourimbah Campus

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| Overview | Lecturer and tutor for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA 1020, CAPA 1001, CAPA 2001). The courses examine contemporary art, with a focus on contemporary genres of performance, the spaces in which performances take place, and the audiences for whom such performances are created. Through lectures, case studies, course readings and practical creative exercises students learn about strategies for creating new collaborative performances/ events/ installations for assessment. |
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Company Director

2010 - 2018

Drama, Co-curricular
Newtown High School of the Performing Arts

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| Overview | Lead artist working with selected company of students to devise, script and stage an original production over a 10-week program in collaboration with the Drama Department of Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. 2010: Directed <i>Bustown</i> by Lachlan Philpott with Year 12 Company 2017: Wrote and directed <i>Talisman</i> for year 7 Company. 2018: Writing and directing Documentary Theatre piece with Year 10 Company. |
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Teaching Artist

2010 - 2012

Australian Theatre for Young People

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| Overview | Key teaching artist on a diverse range of theatre, writing and film programs with young people aged 6-26, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Creative Thinkers Ensemble,● Acceptance Mixed Abilities Young Adults Ensemble,● Australian Business and Community Network Program,● Australian Indigenous Mentorship (AIME) program● HSC and school holiday workshops,● In-school Programs |
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Qualifications:

2002 Bachelor of Arts (Performance Studies), University of Sydney.

2003 Graduate Diploma in Arts Management, University of Technology, Sydney.

2008 Graduate Diploma Education (Secondary - Drama), Charles Sturt University.

Referees

Lachlan Philpott

Playwright/ Artistic Director Playwriting Australia
0413 531 719

Kate Gaul

Director/ Producer
0417 247 105

Claudia Chidiac

Creative Producer/ Theatre maker
0405 378 028