



“This is not-to-be-missed entertainment.” – Sydney Morning Herald

“Wholehearted and gorgeous.” – The Australian

“Delights a new generation as well as satisfying people who have known and loved it all their lives.”
– Daily Review

Geelong Performing Arts Centre
The Playhouse Theatre

Thursday 22 – Saturday 24 October

Thu — Sat at 7pm

Sat also at 1pm

2 hrs, incl. interval

A Reserve \$49 / \$39 / \$129 (Family)

B Reserve \$39 / \$29

Students \$25

Transaction fees may apply

www.festival.melbourne

Geelong Performing Arts Centre

03 5225 1200

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AUSTRALIA // Theatre+Family

Melbourne Festival Co-Commission

Melbourne Festival and Geelong Performing Arts Centre present

MONKEY...JOURNEY TO THE WEST **Kim Carpenter’s Theatre of Image**

Remember the 70s cult TV show *Monkey Magic*?

Reborn from an egg on a mountaintop, the irrepressible Monkey comes to life in a dazzling production of acrobatics, martial arts, comedy and puppetry.

Co-directed by Bell Shakespeare’s **John Bell** and Helpmann Award-winning **Kim Carpenter**, celebrated Australian playwright **Donna Abela** has adapted exciting stories based on 16th century novel *Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng’en to create this magical, action-packed adventure story for the stage.

This cult folk tale follows the trials of the longsuffering monk Tripitaka as he struggles to make his way from China to India to retrieve a sacred text that will bring happiness and balance to the world.

The road to enlightenment is paved with devious spirits and treacherous monsters, so Buddha sends some supernatural help in the form of Monkey, Pigsy and Sandy to relieve their friend in need. But these four will need every ounce of cunning, strength and magic to survive the journey.

The legend of Monkey, as he is commonly known in Western cultures, has retained its relevance through centuries of retelling with themes that resonate today. Bringing a modern flavour to this reimagining is a multi-talented cast; **Parkour Group** and **Team9Lives** who add physical theatre with jaw-dropping trickery throughout alongside new songs from musician **Peter Kennard** performed live on stage.

Entertaining and thought-provoking, *Monkey...Journey to the West* is a modern take on an ancient tale that demonstrates just why this much-loved character’s story has endured through generations.

Melbourne Festival Artistic Director, Josephine Ridge said: “I am delighted that one of the three children and family shows co-commissioned by Melbourne Festival this will be presented in partnership between us and the Geelong Performing Arts

MELBOURNE
FESTIVAL

08—25
OCTOBER
2015

MEDIA
RELEASE

Centre. This is a wonderful new work created and performed by a multi-talented creative team and company and this season offers us an ideal opportunity to reconnect with Geelong audiences but I also hope that audiences from elsewhere in Melbourne join us for this wonderful season of performances.”

Monkey Journey to the West is one of four co-commissions by Melbourne Festival under the Australian Government’s Major Festivals’ Initiative managed by The Australia Council included in the 2015 program. Importantly three of these commissioned works are for children and families ensuring that the next generation of live arts enthusiasts are well catered for. The four works are: *The Rabbits*, *Masquerade*, *Monkey Journey to the West* and *The Experiment*.

MEDIA CONTACT

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