BELONGING

2nd Annual
BrisAsia Symposium

Friday 1 March 2019
Cremorne Theatre | QPAC
10am – 5pm
A MESSAGE FROM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
QPAC

Welcome to QPAC and the BrisAsia Symposium 2019 – Belonging.

QPAC is proud to work with Brisbane City Council and Sounds Across Oceans to present this second BrisAsia Symposium in QPAC’s Cremorne Theatre. Guest speakers and artists come together in a thought-provoking Symposium that seeks to strengthen bonds, foster a sense of shared identity and communal belonging, and inspire and connect those interested in arts and culture.

At QPAC, we are interested in big ideas, in what enlivens and enriches our community, in what challenges lie ahead and how art can be responsive to whatever those challenges may be. Thank you for being part of the conversation!

John Kotzas
Chief Executive
Belonging is an active process, not a static state – it requires movement from one state to another and then another. This is the process of change and transformation that requires an open and curious mind – an appreciation for new perspectives both cultural and philosophical and a desire to embrace new futures that emerge from this learning. The 2nd annual BrisAsia Symposium is designed to facilitate this process by bringing a diverse array of creative thinkers, artists, academics and community leaders across disciplines together to interact, share, discuss and debate in a way that is purposeful and respectful.

I’d like to thank and acknowledge our partners Brisbane City Council, QPAC and our sponsors QUT Creative Industries, the University of Queensland Confucius Institute, the Griffith Asia Institute, theStoryBoxes and Café O-Mai. These important relationships have allowed us to curate a beautifully unique experience for our community.

Dr Anthony Garcia
Program Director
**BELONGING**
**SYMPOSIUM 2019**
MC Ashwin Segkar ABC Broadcaster / Comedian

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| 10.10am | **Thresholds: Intercultural Arts Practice Live** | Led by Dr Jeremy Neideck (QUT) this interdisciplinary panel will begin with a live performance provocation followed by an interactive panel discussion involving audience and Q & A. The artists will share and elaborate on their personal cultural approach to artistic practice and strategies for working across cultures and disciplines. | Dr Jeremy Neideck | Theatre practitioner / Professor QUT  
Sandi Woo | Dance Artist  
Ling-Hsueh Tang | Actor / Theatre Director  
Matt Hsu | Matt Hsu’s Obscure Orchestra |
| 11.15am | **Driving Change Forum**                   | Sarah Mak introduces a panel of nationally renowned thought leaders who will present a series of provocations and challenges to audience members across a spectrum of creative fields. The symposium community will break into groups to reflect, respond and offer ideas and solutions in relation to the discussion. | Sarah Mak | Co-Founder TheStoryBoxes  
Susan (String) Nguyen | Tech Strategist  
Margaret Nguyen | Founder - Café O-Mai  
Dianna Nguyen | Comedian / Actress  
An Le | Social Change Entrepreneur |
| 12.30pm | LUNCH                                      | Continue the discussion on the QPAC rooftop and enjoy a special feature performance by Japanese Shamisen Duo - Kiki Tsugani. | Catered by Margaret Nguyen Café O-Mai |
| 1.15pm  | **Confucianism: Its Essentials and Relevance to the World Today** | The panel will feature a presentation by international guest speak Professor Zuo Biao, who will discuss Confucian philosophy and its contemporary relevance. Q & A facilitated by Mr Benedict Kelly (University of Queensland Confucius Institute) will follow after the presentation. | Mr Benedict Kelly | University of Queensland Confucius Institute  
Guest Speaker: Professor Zuo Biao | Shanghai Maritime University |
| 2.15pm  | **Cultural Diplomacy in the 21st Century: Cultivating the seeds of belonging** | The panel will explore the evolving nature and importance of cultural diplomacy, the role art and creative sector play in sharing cultural knowledge, preserving heritage and promoting communal understanding. | Professor Caitlin Byrne | Griffith Asia Institute  
Natsuko Akagawa | UQ Researcher  
Dr Anthony Garcia | Co-Founder Sounds Across Oceans + JADE Artistic Director  
Takako Haggarty Nishibori | Musician - JADE  
Dheeraj Shrestha | Musician - JADE  
David Williams | Musician - JADE  
Pongsaporn Upani | International Guest Artist (Thailand)  
Mrs Archana Singh | India Honorary Consul |
| 3.30pm  | **ABC Radio National BIG IDEAS**           | Hosted by ABC BIG IDEAS presenter Paul Barclay “Do you want ice with your tea?: the dumbing down of Asian culture” will be an exploration and debate on the diverse perspectives on Australia’s rapidly growing Asian cultural sector. Nationally renowned guest speakers Adam Liaw and Indira Naidoo will be joined by local hip hop artist Chong Ali and performing artist Anna Yen. Be part of the discussion through a special audience Q & A with our guests. | Paul Barclay | Broadcaster  
Indira Naidoo | Food sustainability advocate, author, garden designer  
Adam Liaw | Celebrity Chef  
Chong Ali | Hip Hop Artist  
Anna Yen | Performer / Movement Teacher |

*Program current as at 28 February 2019
Please join us after the Symposium at BrisAsia Sound at Green Jam from 5:30pm on QPAC’s Melbourne Street Green. This FREE music event features an eclectic line-up of Asian-Australian performers, presented as part of the BrisAsia Festival.
ABOUT
THE MASTER
OF CEREMONIES

Ashwin Segkar

Raised in India, the UK, Australia, NZ and Malaysia, Ashwin’s comedy focuses on cultural themes, blending a dry, surreal style with physical movement and observations. He is a regular on ABC radio, a RAW Queensland finalist and his online cartoon show, Boymongoose has been viewed by over 10,000,000 viewers worldwide and featured on Channel V across Asia. He performs regularly around Queensland and Australia and launched his own solo show in 2017, blending comedy with rhythms from around the world.
ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

THRESHOLDS: INTERCULTURAL ARTS PRACTICE LIVE

Sponsored by

Jeremy Neideck

Jeremy Neideck is a performance maker who has worked between Australia and Korea for over a decade, investigating the interweaving of cultures in performance, and the modelling of new and inclusive social realities. His practice encompasses music, physical, and dance theatre with his works 지하 Underground, Deluge: 물의기억, and 심청 <Shimchong>: Daughter Overboard!, playing in Brisbane and Seoul. Jeremy currently teaches across the disciplines of drama, music and dance at Queensland University of Technology and coordinates the first year acting program. Jeremy regularly consults on the architecture and facilitation of collaborative projects and programs of institutional and community transformation.

Ling-Hsueh Tang

Ling graduated from the QUT Acting Programme in 1995 and is well known for her television work. She played Dr Kylie Preece on popular drama All Saints and was also a main cast member of Breakers, Children’s Hospital and New Zealand’s Spin Doctors. Her recent work includes Miss Fisher’s Modern Murders, Jane Campion’s Top of the Lake - China Girl and Doctor Blake’s Murder Mysteries.

Her 20-year career also spans theatre and film with her professional stage debut in Songket at the Sydney Opera House for Griffin Theatre Company. She has also worked with La Boite Theatre Company in David Williamson’s Amigos, with Living Room Theatre in I Love Todd Sampson and with And Moor Productions in Beautiful and The Ghostwriter receiving a Matilda Award nomination. She is currently participating in the CAAP Director’s Initiative at Queensland Theatre, returning to her theatre roots and creating pathways for artists from diverse backgrounds.

Ling’s film work includes roles in Ghostrider, Son of the Mask, Strange Planet and the award winning short Shockroom.
Sandi Woo

Sandi Woo is a Brisbane-based independent producer, dance artist, community development facilitator and teaching artist. For over 20 years, Sandi has worked in the arts industry both as a freelancer and with established organisations in WA, NSW and now Queensland. She has developed and delivered a number of community projects in Broome, including Gallery Moves for Broome’s 2012 Shinju Matsuri and Because of You… as part of Ausdance WA’s 2013 Future Landings. In 2013 she was awarded the WA Dance Award for Outstanding Achievement in Regional and/or Community Dance for her project YouTubeMeDance.

Sandi believes in the power of the creative process to reflect, learn and observe ourselves in daily life. Her work aims at providing opportunities for community to engage with movement and dance to develop their creative voice. Most recently Sandi has worked with Philip Channels and Gavin Webber on an inclusive project supported by The Arts Centre Gold Coast, called No Difference; as a teaching artist on the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, Royal Ballet and Micah Projects community project We All Dance, and works as Producer for Annette Carmichael’s community dance project The Beauty Index taking place in Denmark (WA). Most recently, Sandi is immersed in a studio-led research residency, eMergence, at MetroArts that aims to deepen an understanding of how dance and improvisation can foster mindfulness and provide insights about our creative practice and ourselves.

Matt Hsu

Matt Hsu is QMusic Award nominated musician, multi-instrumentalist and composer. Through his creative project Matt Hsu’s Obscure Orchestra, he has been featured on SBS News, performed at BIGSOUND and TEDxQUT, and co-directed and created the soundtrack for a Los Angeles Cinefest award finalist short film.

As part of QUT’s academic community, Matt is a tutor, PhD candidate and QUT Three Minute Thesis finalist. His doctoral project Indie-Folk™: vintage ethos in the 21st century investigates the intersection of old-world and modern sensibilities, artistic authenticity and hipster culture. This research allows Matt to combine his passion for music (as a composer and founding member of The Mouldy Lovers) with over a decade of professional experience in digital media and communication.
Margaret Nguyen grew up in the Sydney Western suburb of Cabramatta. After high school she wasn’t entirely sure of her dream career in life. She went to uni to fulfil her promise of completing a degree. In 2007 Margaret graduated Masters of chiropractic and practiced for four years. While she was adjusting patients, she was planning her dream café in the back of her mind.

After four years of practice Margaret decided to leave chiropractic health to become a restaurateur in Brisbane. With no formal hospitality education she took the big leap of faith.

In 2012 she opened Café O-Mai with her mother Kim Nguyen in Annerley starting out with 45 seats. Over the years Café O-Mai has expanded to seat 120 and has customers lining out the door on weekends. She has invigorated a once sleepy corner of Annerley creating a deep sense of community all the locals are proud to embrace. Her food philosophy is about cooking from the heart focusing on her Vietnamese heritage. It is uncomplicated honest comfort food maintaining freshness of the produce with no added MSG. Café O-Mai offers an inclusive menu that caters for both herbivores and omnivores. Café O-Mai has been included in the Good Food Guide for the best top 10 cafes of Brisbane in 2017 and best cheap eats in 2018.

Margaret believes in running a sustainable restaurant where the environmental impact is considered. All food waste, coffee grinds, fruit pulp at Café O-Mai is composted to reduce landfill and limiting single use items such as straws and plastic bags.

Margaret’s goal is to work less in the café to spend more quality time with her son Noah. She hopes to do a lot more creative projects such as holding pop up Vietnamese vegan cooking classes and starting her cookbook.

Sarah Mak
Sarah believes that great stories are a catalyst for behaviour change. As the Co-Founder and Executive Producer of TheStoryBoxes, she has produced meaningful content for national and global brands, building stories that enable organisations to communicate their identities in meaningful, impactful and effective ways. Through her leadership, TheStoryBoxes has established a strong and successful rapport with many of Australia’s leading commerce, technology, education, health and not-for-profit organisations.

Sarah is also the co-founder/CEO of Folktale, a storytelling app currently in development that gives users the guidance and storytelling tools needed to create their own authentic content through their mobile devices. Formally trained in Psychology and International Public Health, Sarah’s background intersects innovation, entrepreneurship, media, health and development.
Suzanne “String” Nguyen
Suzanne “String” Nguyen is a futurist. Online, she is known as “StringStory” or “String” for short, where she threads the dots of communication and tech. So far this endeavour has taken her to over 25 cities across 3 continents. String is a creative tech strategist and video producer, and in 2017, has geek’d out with over 300 innovators, startup founders and entrepreneurs. So far she interviewed Derek Anderson (Startup Grind), Hugh Forrester (SXSW) and Gary Vaynerchuk.

Follow String as she travels around the world to explore tech and organise fried chicken parties. Currently, String is TOP VOICE on LinkedIn, one of the top 200 writers channel for discussing brand marketing and startups. She was a producer for an award winning Snapchat Channel, Women In Tech. LinkedIn.com/in/StringStory
Stringstory.co

Diana Nguyen
Diana Nguyen is an actor, comedian and clown doctor. She’s been performing in Melbourne for 14 years and performed all over Australia, and internationally including Los Angeles and Edinburgh Scotland. Storytelling and theatre is integral to Diana’s work of humanising all our experiences and reminding ourselves that we have special jewels we need to share. Diana has been sharing her journey on LinkedIn as an actor and comedian with a following of 17k. Not as much as String…but working it!

Diana has written and produced her own shows including her stand up show NAKED, Phi and Me series (MICF), Viet Kieu (cabaret), Singing 10 ways to disappoint your Vietnamese mother, and has toured around Australia, USA and recently Edinburgh Fringe 2017. In 2019 she is premiering her standup show Dirty Diana at the Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival. Also in 2019, a web series Diana co-wrote, performed and is the executive producer of - Phi and Me - will be released after 5 years of hard work and sweat. It is the first ever Vietnamese Australian family comedy series, and was recently funded by Screen Australia. (www.phiandme.com).

Her published short story 5 ways to disappoint your Vietnamese mother in Alice Pung’s Growing Up Asian in Australia, (10 years later) is still been studied by students all over Victoria. Other works of her own that she has produced include, VietKieu the No 1 Australian Outcast, Singing 10 ways to disappoint your Vietnamese mother, Dirty Baby at the Melbourne Fringe. Screen credits Include: TV panelist on Q&A (ABC), TV panelist on Friday Front Bar and Fox Footy 360 as AFL Multicultural Ambassador. Her TV credits include Upper Middle Bogan, Fancy Boy, Please Like Me, pilot tv show Clean and Jerk, Underbelly, Jack Irish and Bollywood Chak De India.
CONFUCIANISM: ITS ESSENTIALS AND RELEVANCE TO THE WORLD TODAY

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International Guest Speaker

Professor Biao Zuo

Biao Zuo, professor and former dean of the School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Maritime University and president of Shanghai Sci-tech Translation Society, was a senior visiting scholar at Lancaster University, Britain (1993-94), taught simultaneous interpretation at the University of Hawaii, USA (1999) and worked as guest professor at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (2006). He has published books and articles covering such fields as cultural studies, linguistics, literature, translation, lexicography and management. His main area of interest is comparative culture and translation, but he also has great interest in management science and has 15 years’ experience as instructor for MBA/EMBA programs and has given lectures on culture and management at more than 100 universities. He has been awarded numerous honours and prizes for his academic contribution at the municipal and national levels including the National Advanced Educationist, the National Excellent Teacher, Shanghai Municipal Model Worker, etc. He won the National Labour Medal (one of China’s top honours) in 1995 and the Lifetime Achievement Award granted by Shanghai Sci-tech Translation Society in 2013. He gained an entry into the book Outstanding People of the Twentieth Century nominated by Cambridge International Biographical Centre in 1999.

Benedict Kelly

Benedict Kelly is the Business Manager at UQ’s Confucius Institute. He obtained his BArts and BEconomics from The University of Queensland in 1997. Ben studied mandarin Chinese language both at UQ and overseas and has lived abroad in Asia for over 10 years. He brings to the Institute a wealth of knowledge and experience of working between China and Australia.
CULTURAL DIPLOMACY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: CULTIVATING THE SEEDS OF BELONGING

Sponsored by

Griffith Asia Institute

Professor Caitlin Byrne

Professor Caitlin Byrne is Director, Griffith Asia Institute. Prior to joining Griffith University, Caitlin was Assistant Professor of International Relations and Diplomacy at Bond University, Gold Coast. She is a Faculty Fellow of the University of Southern California’s Centre for Public Diplomacy (CPD), and alumna of the Asialink Leaders Program 2016. Caitlin’s teaching and research is focused on diplomacy and soft power in the Asia-Pacific with a special interest in the role and relevance of people-to-people links including those forged through international education, culture, sport and social media.

Caitlin’s research is published in a range of journals including Politics & Policy, The Hague Journal of Diplomacy, the Australian Journal of International Affairs, Sport in Society, Exchange: Journal on Public Diplomacy and CPD Perspectives. She recently guest edited a special issue of Politics & Policy on Public Diplomacy and Soft Power in the Indo-Pacific, and co-guest edited a special issue of the Australian Journal of International Affairs on Australian Diplomacy Today. Caitlin currently leads a range of funded projects on themes spanning an assessment of Australia’s sports diplomacy; cultural advocacy and diplomacy in ASEAN; and the challenge of digital diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific. Other projects include G20 public diplomacy, Australian public diplomacy, the rise of Chinese soft power in the Asia-Pacific and dialogue on the Korean Peninsula.

Prior to joining academia, Caitlin had established a professional career which incorporated strategic management, legal, foreign and social policy roles across government, business and community sectors. Career highlights include roles with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (1993-2001), Queensland Government’s Office for Women (2003-2005), artsMildura (2006-08) and Queensland Department of Communities (2009-10). Caitlin consults on occasion to government. She is deeply engaged in Queensland’s international policy community, including as a member of the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) Queensland Executive, and the Fulbright Selection Committee for Queensland.

Douglas Watkin

Brisbane-based filmmaker Douglas Watkin (BA VA. Dip Ed) was born in Cairns, Far North Queensland. His broadcast filmmaking career began working in television (SBS Network 1995) doing small news reports and producing various corporate videos. Douglas has been actively working in the filmmaking industry for over 20 years.

Douglas established Double Wire Productions in 2000. Since then Double Wire Productions has travelled, shooting and producing stories on wide ranging events, people and places, sharing stories of Indigenous Australia.

As filmmakers and storytellers Double Wire Productions, under the guidance of founder Douglas Watkin, have produced various short documentaries, feature documentaries, corporate videos and interactive web based applications. The highly creative, experienced and professionally qualified team has worked in almost every genre in television, government and the private sector.

The Double Wire team has travelled nationally and internationally filming documentaries and showcasing a range of different stories and cultural events.
Dr Anthony Garcia

Dr Anthony Garcia is an acclaimed guitarist, composer and educator based in Brisbane, Australia. Born in the United States and raised and educated in South East Asia, Australia and Mexico, Garcia has recorded, toured and performed extensively throughout the world collaborating with creatives across a diverse range of artistic disciplines. Dr Garcia’s exploratory philosophy of music-making and teaching has generated a highly personal creative approach that embraces both ancient and contemporary forms, world and ethnic musics and improvisational practice.

Dr Garcia’s PhD research into improvisation, conducted at the University of Tasmania between 2012-2015, has informed ongoing research into intercultural and collaborative learning, teaching artistry, interdisciplinary practice and mindfulness meditation and music. His passion for unifying the interlocking fields of musical performance, composition and education has informed ongoing pedagogical experimentation in schools, universities and the broader community and led to the establishment in 2016, in partnership with his wife Jennifer Garcia, of Sounds Across Oceans, a new music organisation dedicated to exploring ‘the multidimensional capacity of music and the arts to create and share new ideas, uplift, heal, shift energies and ignite new perspectives.’

Dheeraj Shrestha - Tabla Percussionist

Internationally acclaimed Nepalese born Dheeraj Shrestha is recognised as the foremost tabla player in Australia. An irrepressible creativity, tremendous clarity and exciting rhythmic improvisation are his stylistic hallmarks and this has established him, worldwide, as one of the finest exponents of tabla in classical and world music.

Dheeraj Shrestha’s hometown, Kathmandu, Nepal stands on the ancient route leading from the Himalayan Mountains down into the valley of Kathmandu. His real relationship with music began when he was five years old listening to classical music by his father. Later he started formal training on tabla with his guru Pt. Hom Nath Upadhyaya. His father used to take him to play traditional temple music near his home. He used to be the only child among all the master musicians performing at the courtyard temple music.

He frequently visits Nepal to understand more about the spirituality in music and knowledge of Nepalese traditional music and preserving it for future generations. Dheeraj Shrestha is the first Nepalese professional musician invited to migrate to Australia in 1994. He has also been on an Australian Arts council peer assessment committee and has taught at the Queensland Conservatorium of music, UQ, QUT. Now, Dheeraj Shrestha has been working closely at the SAO with Dr Anthony Garcia to explore and promote a more holistic vision of music and the arts and its role in society.
Natsuko Akagawa

Natsuko Akagawa has a PhD and Masters in Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies, Master of Business Administration, Graduate Diploma of Education, Diploma of Portuguese Language and Culture and Bachelor of Arts. She has also studied and practiced the Japanese arts of tea ceremony, flower arrangement, traditional martial arts (Aiki-jujutsu) and traditional fabric dying techniques in Japan. She has published widely on heritage, Japan and South East Asia.

Natsuko’s research focuses on heritage as it applies to people, communities, nations and global interactions. She is looking at how ‘heritage’ is contested and negotiated on national, international, multicultural and colonial and post-colonial context. It is interested in the way heritage assembles histories, memories and identities and is articulated in policies, practices and imaginaries.

Her book, *Heritage conservation in Japan’s cultural diplomacy: Heritage, national identity and national interest* (Routledge Contemporary Japanese Series 2014), which establishes a pioneering theoretical nexus between the politics of cultural diplomacy, heritage conservation, and national identity and interest, has become a focus for scholars in a range of disciplines. Natsuko is a co-editor of *Intangible Heritage* (Routledge 2008), internationally regarded as one of the first comprehensive texts on this topic and used widely as a prescribed reading material globally. Her new book *Safeguarding Intangible Heritage* (Routledge 2018) with her co-editor will add another dimension to international heritage discourse. In her research in this area, she has been tracing the recent development of the concept of intangible heritage in heritage discourse and practice. In particular, this has examined the influence of Japanese heritage practice in recognising the importance of embodied skill in relation to material or tangible heritage. More generally she is interested in how this new understanding of heritage has influenced community practice, national policy-making and global heritage discourse.

She is also Associate Investigator ARC centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions. Her particular interest in relation to the history of emotions involves the way emotions mediated the cultural encounter of East and West at both personal and political levels in the early modern period. She is interested in the way such encounters played a role in shaping perceptions and the performance of heritage in both East and West, through engagement with both tangible and intangible elements such as meanings, memories and identity.

Other areas of her current research and publications have involved specific studies on the nature of colonial and post-colonial practice of heritage in several East and Southeast Asian nations, and the political use of heritage in framing contemporary national identities in the region, with particular reference to Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia. Following an earlier article related to Japan’s occupation of Indonesia between 1942 and 1945, Natsuko is researching the legacy of Japanese naval administration in East Indonesia as part of a co-authored book on the history of Central Sulawesi (Indonesia). She is also developing these various studies for a book on Japan’s civil and cultural administration of Indonesia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific and its legacies.
Takako Nishibori

Queensland’s eminent Koto performer, Takako Nishibori brings the classic sounds of Japan alive through her mastery of the Koto.

Takako was born in Otsu, Shiga Japan. She started playing the Koto at the age of six. Takako studied the Koto with Grand Master Shizu Fujino (a student of Michio Miyagi) from Ikuta Ryu Miyagi school. She commenced her studies of the Shamisen, at the age of 16. In 2000, Takako received her teaching license from the Miyagi School of Tokyo. She was placed in the top ten for all of Japan.

Takako’s first visit to Australia was in 2001 as an exchange teacher. During this time, she performed for various venues in NSW and ACT and began to explore new ways of playing the Koto. After returning to Japan, Takako moved to Newcastle in order to commence a Masters of Educational Studies. After completing her study, she moved to Brisbane in 2005. As a language teacher, Takako has developed practical language teaching methods that some schools still employ.

Takako is a regular performer as both a solo Koto performer, in various ensembles and as a session musician. She performs classical Japanese pieces, as well as exploring new boundaries with the Koto in contemporary music, as she creates a new style fusing Koto with other instruments.

Recent performances have included numerous tours of North Queensland, a Japanese music concert at the Brisbane Powerhouse with Bashow Kanagawa from Japan, Brisbane City Hall concert series, headlined “Utamono” singing focus concert, Koto international festival and concert with world known Shakuhachi Grand master Kaoru Kakizakai. Takako was featured in an episode of Good Chikyu-bin (YTV, Japanese television, 2016). Takako is also an enthusiastic educator who runs regular private lessons, sessional school workshops in various locations including UQ and QACI. She is also an instrumental teacher at special school.

Takako curates an annual concert at St John’s Cathedral.

She is the founder of Koto Brisbane.

David Williams

A proud Wakka Wakka man born in Rockhampton, David is an internationally renowned didgeridoo performer having spent the last 15 years performing locally, nationally and internationally.

Classically trained from an early age in Piano and Trombone, David chose a career path later in life that was reflective of his upbringing, learning traditional songs from his grandmother and with a strong influence from his uncles and aunties, of sharing and celebrating the culture of his people.

David’s skills as a didgeridoo player have taken him around the world performing in various markets in Europe, North and South America, and Asia with a highlight performing at the opening ceremony of the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games to an estimated audience of 4 billion people and the Gallipoli ANZAC Dawn service opening in 2016.

Through David’s didgeridoo performances, he aims to further educate and encourage a wider understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture.
Pongsaporn Upani

Pongsaporn Upani (aka On) is a traditional Thai reed mouth organ (Kan) player from Khon Kaen Thailand. His performance style, inspired by a deep inherited tradition of Isan folk music from Northeast Thailand, fuses seamlessly with contemporary styles and genres, giving him a rare capacity to work across cultures and art forms.

Pongsaporn is currently completing a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in music and folk dance at Khon Kaen University. His extensive career as a performing artist has seen him present as a soloist and in collaboration with other artists throughout Thailand and internationally in North America, Asia and Europe. Pongsaporn is also a YouTube sensation with appearances on national talent shows, including performances for Thai government officials and royalty at home and abroad.

*Pongsaporn Upani’s guest appearance is courtesy of Thai Airways, The Royal Thai Embassy, Canberra, and The Royal Thai Consulate-General, Queensland.*
Adam Liaw

Instantly recognisable with his warm smile and topknot, SBS’s Award Winning Destination Flavour host and winner of MasterChef Adam Liaw is one of Australia’s favourite cooks, authors and television presenters.

His talent for creating simple, approachable and exciting dishes has seen him author of six best-selling cookbooks – Destination Flavour: People And Places, Two Asian Kitchens, Asian After Work, Adam’s Big Pot, Asian Cookery School, The Zen Kitchen.

Articulate and witty, Adam brings a unique perspective to everything he does. He is a regular columnist for Fairfax - The Sydney Morning Herald, Sunday Life and The Age. Adam also writes for international publications The Guardian, The Wall Street Journal, Hong Kong, and SBS online.

Born in Malaysia to an English-Singaporean mother and Hainanese Chinese father, Adam’s family lived in several countries through his youth and his culinary influences are far-reaching. He was an active cook from an early age, regularly cooking for his parents and seven brothers and sisters since he was eight years old.

Adam holds university degrees in science and law and practiced law for 11 years, most recently as the Head of Legal and Business Affairs for Disney Interactive, Asia Pacific based in Tokyo. His love affair with food and cooking blossomed during this time and he returned to Australia in 2009 to compete in MasterChef. In July 2010 over 5 million people tuned in to watch him win the second series MasterChef. His victory still remains the most watched non-sporting event in Australian television history.

In 2012 he began filming Destination Flavour a food and travel series with SBS. Destination Flavour has since presented five highly successful series on the network – Destination Flavour, Destination Flavour Japan, Destination Flavour Down Under, Destination Flavour Scandinavia which took out the ACTAA award for Best Lifestyle Program for 2016 and Destination Flavour Singapore which was also nominated for an ACTAA in 2017. The sixth series of Destination Flavour China is in production and will air late 2018.

Chong Ali

Chong Ali is a Vietnamese Australian Indie Rapper from Brisbane, Australia. Playing stages such as Bigsound, Woodford Folk Festival, Valley Fiesta, the iconic Stylin’ Up Festival and the BrisAsia Festival, Chong has earnt the reputation as a fierce live emcee performing with the rap groups EMR and Pistola Ave and touring with the award winning Culture Train. He made his long awaited debut as a solo artist in 2017 with the internationally acclaimed single My Cool. His latest single Rose Coloured Tint was nominated as a finalist in the prestigious Queensland Music Awards 2018 and has been celebrated by not only Hip Hop junkies but by music lovers in general.
Anna Yen

Anna Yen is a theatre maker, performer, writer, director and teacher.

Anna was a finalist in the Queensland Premier’s Drama Award 2018 with her new physical theatre work, *Slow Boat*. She was a writer / performer in *The Serpent’s Table* 2014 Sydney Festival (Griffin Theatre / Contemporary Asian Australian Performance). She received a Matilda Award for her solo show *Chinese Take Away* Stage X (QPAC / Gum Yi Productions) and toured its film adaptation (*SBS* commissioned) with performance excerpts, to Asia, Europe and USA. *Chinese Take Away*’s script is published by PlayLab.

Other performance credits include: the award-winning *Monsteria* GUSH; *It All Begins With Love* Creative Regions; *Electric Dragon* Georgie Pinn, FedSq 2015; *A Creation Myth* tunCLOUD; *Waterwheel Installation* Igneous; *Wicked Bodies* La Boite/Zen Zen Zo; *Fortune* La Boite; *After China* QUT – Brisbane and Belvoir St; *Monkey Journey to the West* Chinese Historical Assoc; *Load-ed Stories* QTC-Ed; four years with *Rock’n’Roll Circus* (now CIRCA) ensemble including in *Blood on the Butter, Circus Under the Tintop, Body Slam, Shame – An Incarcerated Tale and Trashed*; *Cravings* Vulcana; *The Case of All Things* with Jeff Turpin, in Kaohsiung, Taiwan 2008 for the launch of the World Games; and her *Chinese Grandma Clown* has featured at many festivals. She was a co-founder / performer of the Tasmanian Women’s Circus and Horizon Circus in Hobart and a co-ordinator of the Tasmanian Youth Circus in the late 80s.

Yen has directed / collaboratively devised over 20 new works including: *Phoenix Rising* Woodford; *Other-wise II* Under the Radar - Brisbane Festival; *Taboo and Stop Violence Against Women* QUT / Amnesty International / VenaCava; *Manga Metropolis* Hereford Sisters - Backbone Youth Arts, Brisbane Festival; *Lives and Loves* Ethnic Communities Council of Qld / Ausdance; *Aviatrix, Fire in the Belly* and *Blissed Out…* Vulcana Circus; *It’s Just not Cricket* UQ Drama; street-theatre pieces for Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom’s Performers4Peace; and was Assistant Director on AWGIE Award-winning *Kese Solwata* Out of the Box.

Other awards include a Creative Partnerships Art and Health Award Qld with The Lamingtons for Griffith University / Wesley Mission Brisbane Playful Engagement project; Matilda Award for Best Costume and Bank SA Adelaide Fringe Best Circus / Physical Theatre Weekly Award for GUSH’s *Monsteria*, and a Churchill Fellowship. Anna has trained with Monika Pagneux, Philippe Gaulier, Nanjing Acrobatic Troupe, Shanghai Circus School, Ira Seidenstein, Zen Zen Zo, Hull Actors Studio LA, Andrea Moor and Dell’Arte International School of Physical Theatre.

Anna Yen teaches theatre making, physical theatre, circus, movement and Feldenkrais Method in communities, universities, companies, festivals and schools.

www.playmoves.org
Indira Naidoo

During her 25-year journalistic career, Indira Naidoo became one of Australia’s most popular broadcasters, winning many awards. She hosted and reported for some of the country’s most distinguished news and current affair programs including ABC’s nightly Late Edition news and SBS TV’s World News Tonight.

Since leaving full-time news broadcasting in 2000, Indira’s journalistic interest has not only shifted to the role global environmental issues play in conflict, poverty and food security, she has also developed a food-gardening obsession. This obsession has led to Indira winning more awards as a food garden designer, as well as accolades as a best-selling author.

It all began when Indira, a passionate foodie, decided - out of the blue - to try growing her own food on the 20 square metre balcony of her 13th floor apartment in Potts Point, Sydney. This act transformed her balcony into an abundant kitchen garden and sparked her quest for self-sufficiency, a deeper awareness of the issues of climate change and a desire to reduce her carbon footprint - as well as providing her with great pleasure and enjoyment.

Her first book, the best-selling The Edible Balcony published in 2011, about growing food in small spaces, was launched in London, Hong Kong and New York. Her follow-up second book The Edible City about community gardening will be published in August 2015. She designed two award-winning food gardens for the Australian Garden Show Sydney, in Centennial Park, and through her garden company, helps community groups build their own food gardens. Indira is an ambassador for Sydney’s homeless crisis centre the Wayside Chapel and conducts weekly gardening classes on its rooftop vegetable garden for its homeless visitors.

Indira is a member of the international Slow Food movement, has written on food and sustainability issues for The Sydney Morning Herald and Gourmet Traveller magazine, and writes the Saucy Onion food blog. Indira also hosts urban food garden tours and in 2014 she took a tour group to explore the rooftop farms of New York City. Another trip to lead a group through the urban food gardens of London, Amsterdam, Berlin and Vienna is also planned.