

QPAC presents

Laser Beak Man

By David Morton, Nicholas Paine and Tim Sharp
With Music By Sam Cromack (Ball Park Music)



RELAXED PERFORMANCE
VISUAL STORY

Thursday 3 October, 11am
Playhouse, QPAC



DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY

A Dead Puppet Society, La Boite
and Brisbane Festival production
in association with PowerArts



QUEENSLAND
PERFORMING
ARTS CENTRE



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WELCOME TO QPAC

Relaxed Performance

QPAC is dedicated to being welcoming, accessible and inclusive for the widest possible audience. We provide a range of services, facilities and programs to enable all visitors to attend performances and participate in programs.

This **Relaxed Performance** is for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment - this can include but is not limited to people with autism, sensory sensitivities, learning disabilities, dementia, as well as those living with anxiety or who have experienced trauma.

We focus on relaxing - or adapting - the theatre environment. During this performance, there is a relaxed attitude to noise, doors remain open and lights while dimmed remain on throughout the performance. You can leave the theatre to take a break and a designated quiet area is available.

Contact

If you would like any additional information in the lead up to your visit, please contact QPAC on 136 246 during business hours.

We thank Arts Centre Melbourne's Access & Inclusion team who created this resource and generously allowed us to adapt this for the QPAC season.

THE PRODUCTION

Venue

This production of *Laser Beak Man* will be performed at the Playhouse, located inside the Queensland Performing Arts Centre.

Length

The play is 85 minutes with no interval.

Age Recommendation

Suitable for ages 8+. Families are encouraged to review warnings and talk to staff in order to assess appropriateness of content.

Content Warnings

This production uses a haze machine, smoke machine, sound pressure effects and strobe effects. **In the Relaxed Performances of *Laser Beak Man* there will be no strobe lights. Localised smoke effects will be used instead of full haze effects.**

Theatre Guidelines

- Photography and mobile devices are not permitted during the performance, however if you need to use a device (i.e. iPad) to assist with communication, please inform the ushers. It's always fine to use a device in the foyer or quiet areas.
- During the Relaxed Performance, a relaxed attitude is taken to movement, noise and eating/drinking in the auditorium (this is okay).
- If you need to take a break during the show, you are welcome to come out into the foyer area.

Photography

Production photographs by Dylan Evans.

DEAD PUPPET SOCIETY

Dead Puppet Society are dedicated to “uniting an old world aesthetic with cutting edge technical elements...where the mythic sits alongside the macabre, and the old school meets the technological”.

Laser Beak Man is a perfect demonstration of these values, with a blend of traditional theatrical approaches infused with activated scenery and large-scale animations that appear on LED screens, live performances of original music and controllable floating helium objects, creating an immersive and unique theatre experience that launches puppets into the twenty-first century and beyond.

Tim Sharp’s work is a celebration of great artistry, imagination and hope; all things which the world truly needs right now, and which will hopefully contribute to challenging the limits we often impose on our concept of what constitutes the form, nature and purpose of theatre.

“We believe that both Tim’s personal story of living with autism and that of Laser Beak Man deserve global celebration”

“We’re excited to highlight the intricacies of his creation alongside our own storytelling and aesthetic to make Tim’s hilarious drawings three-dimensional on stage.”

- Dead Puppet Society Executive Producer Nicholas Paine



THE THEATRE

Laser Beak Man is being performed in the Queensland Performing Arts Centre's (QPAC) Playhouse.

Here are some fun facts about the Playhouse:

- It opened in 1998 with Queensland Theatre and Brisbane Festival's production of *The Marriage of Figaro*
- The Playhouse seats approximate 850 patrons



THE BUILDING

When you get inside the building you will see other people who are also going to see shows. Some of them might be seeing *Laser Beak Man* like you.

You will also see people wearing black uniforms with red t-shirts. They are called **ushers**. The ushers can help you with directions or answer any questions you may have about the performance or QPAC.



BEFORE THE SHOW

Before you go inside the theatre, you will need a ticket. You may already have your ticket, or you may need to collect it from the **Box Office**.

There may be other people and families waiting to collect their tickets, too.

Printed on your ticket is a row (letter) and seat number. This is the seat you will be sitting in to watch the performance.



FIND YOUR WAY

There are four theatres inside QPAC. Today you are going to the **Playhouse**.

You might need to walk up some stairs or use the elevator to get to the Playhouse. The friendly ushers will help you find your way.



FOYER

The **foyer** is where we wait for the doors of the theatre to open. While we wait, the actors and musicians are inside the theatre getting ready for their performance and the backstage crew are preparing the stage.

Before going inside the theatre, you may like to have something to eat or drink or use the bathrooms.



SEATING

The doors to the theatre will open about **20 minutes before** the start of the show. You can go into the theatre and find your seat early to watch an introduction to the performance.

You will see an usher waiting at the door to the theatre. You will need to show the usher your ticket before you go inside. The ushers can help you find your seat or you can find it yourself.

Remember, your seat number is on your ticket but if you want to change seats you can. Just wait until all the audience is seated. Once everyone is inside the theatre the usher will assist you to move to an empty seat.



DURING THE PLAY

The play will go for about **85 minutes**.

You might like to bring some **sunglasses** or **headphones** from home to wear inside the theatre.

There is no interval but if you need to take a break during the show you can leave your seat and come out to the foyer area. You can do this whenever you need to.

There will be a **Quiet Area** in the foyer that has comfortable beanbags where you can relax if you want to.

You can return to the theatre and watch the rest of the show whenever you feel ready.



ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Laser Beak Man is a play with puppets, animation, flying objects and a live band.

It is a very bright performance. If you'd like to wear sunglasses inside the theatre you can. Because there is a live band performing during the show you may find the performance gets a little loud at times – so if you want to wear headphones or cover your ears you can do that, too.

In fact, you are welcome to do whatever you need to make yourself comfortable and relaxed while watching this performance.



TIM SHARP AND LASER BEAK MAN

Laser Beak Man is a superhero created by Australian artist Tim Sharp.

Tim has Autism. When he was little he couldn't speak so drawing became a way of helping him communicate. It also helped him learn to speak!

He invented Laser Beak Man when he was 11 years old. He draws pictures of him every day. Laser Beak Man has helped Tim showcase his great sense of humour and intelligence to the world.

Did you know ...

- Tim is the first ever artist with Autism to have his art made into an animated TV series
- Tim is a world famous artist – he has had many exhibitions and his artwork is sold internationally
- Tim was a two-time finalist for Queensland Young Australian of the Year
- Tim's Mum, Judy, wrote a bestselling book about his life called ***A Double Shot of Happiness***



WHAT WILL YOU HEAR?

There is a live band in the theatre. They perform in a space in front of the stage which is known as the **Orchestra Pit**. You will hear drums, guitars, a keyboard and singers. The lead singer's name is Sam. He is from a band called **Ball Park Music**. Do you know that band?

Sam and the band play music all through the performance. At the start of the play they sing about a make-believe city called **Power City**. This is where the story takes place.



WHAT WILL YOU SEE?

There are large screens on the stage. On these screens you will see some animations. These are animations of Tim Sharp's artwork. They are bright and colourful.

All the characters in *Laser Beak Man* are puppets. You will see actors wearing grey clothing who control the puppets' movements and do their voices.

Did you know there are **more than 35 puppets** in this performance?



THE STORY

At the start of the play, we will meet our hero, LASER BEAK MAN. Sam sings that Laser Beak Man is a boy with a *beak on his face and kindness in his heart*. Laser Beak Man doesn't speak. You will see him sticking up for people at school and making new friends.

Laser Beak Man makes two very good friends. Their names are Peter Bartman and Emily. You will see the three friends grow up together, from their first day at school to graduating from university.



MAGNA CRYSTALS

At their graduation, Peter Bartman unveils his invention. This invention will give the whole world free energy with something he calls magna crystals. But there is an accident and the **magna crystals** turn Laser Beak Man into a SUPERHERO!



A GREEDY MAYOR

Peter is jealous of his friend's new super powers. The **Mayor** of Power City becomes greedy and doesn't want to share the magna crystals with the world. She plans to keep all the crystals for herself and Power City!



GOODBYE, FRIENDS

The Mayor threatens Laser Beak Man and makes him stay in Power City. Peter Bartman and Emily argue with the Mayor. She gets angry and forces Peter and Emily to leave Power City forever. The Mayor even changes Emily's name to **Evil Emily**.

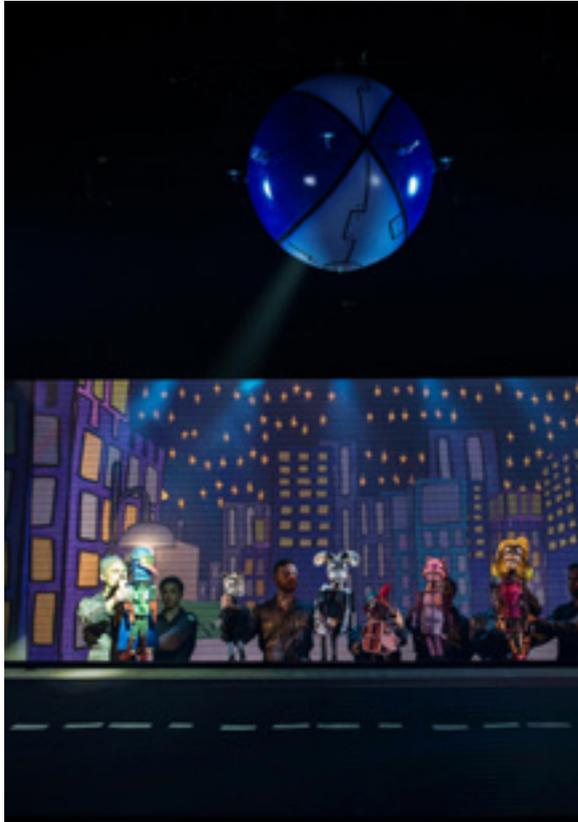


BREAKING NEWS

You will see an animated news report about a GIANT TOMATO attacking Power City.

Laser Beak Man fights the Giant Tomato and turns it into a giant bottle of ketchup! Power City is saved.

Some people in the audience might clap and cheer to celebrate Laser Beak Man's victory.



A MESSAGE FROM PETER BARTMAN

A large balloon-like object hovers over the audience. This is an AirOrb which someone is controlling by remote control backstage.

From the orb comes a message from Peter Bartman and Evil Emily. They have stolen the magna crystals.

Power City loses its power. And Laser Beak Man loses his super powers. He is unable to fly or use his lasers any more.



THE ISLAND

Laser Beak Man is sad and lonely. The band plays a sad song as Laser Beak Man takes a journey to a deserted island.

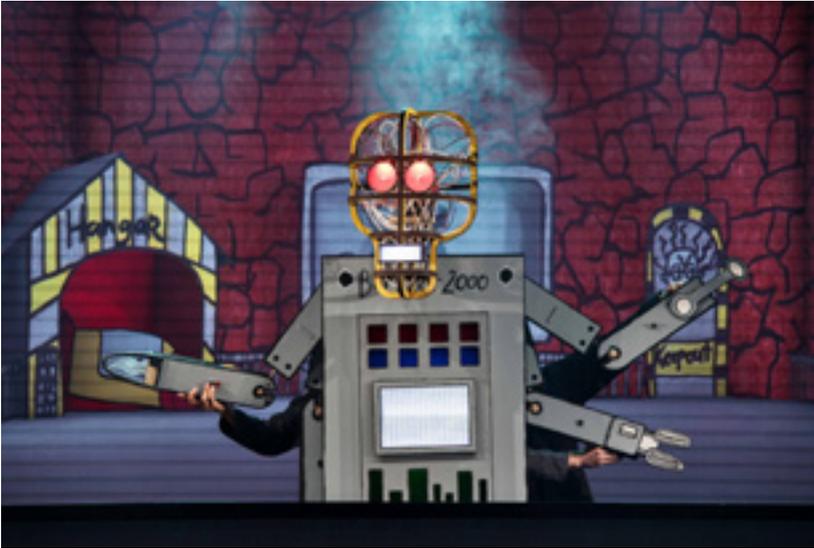
You will see a bright pink hot air balloon flying over the audience. This is another drone puppet. The hot air balloon lands near the island. It looks like Laser Beak Man has a visitor.



YOU ARE AMAZING

Amazing Grace helps Laser Beak Man realise he doesn't need super powers to be amazing. They make invitations for a community barbecue to unite the citizens of Power City.

The hot air balloon takes off, with Grace and Laser Beak Man on board. They release the invitations from the sky. Paper invitations will gently fall on the audience. You might even catch one!



PETER'S EVIL PLAN

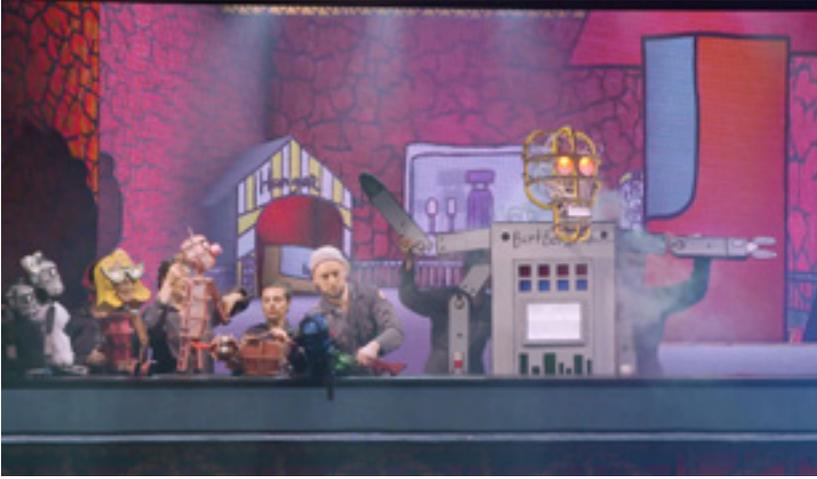
Meanwhile, Peter Bartman is working on his evil plan. You might see some smoke and flashing lights and then ... Peter becomes a huge robot with red flashing eyes.

The **Black Sheep** thinks he can be friends with Peter the Robot. But Peter is mean and throws Black Sheep away.



THE BARBECUE

At the barbecue Laser Beak Man teams up with some new friends: Black Sheep, Boar, Ram, Chicken and Barbie. Laser Beak Man realises there is strength in numbers and makes a plan to get the crystals back.



PETER THE EVIL ROBOT

The team go underground in order to retrieve the crystals but ... SURPRISE! There are bright and flashing lights, a fake explosion and smoke. Peter the Robot appears and uses his evil powers to defeat the good guys.



BLACK SHEEP & LASER BEAK MAN

No one believes in Laser Beak Man anymore and his team abandon him. Only Black Sheep stays behind to help Laser Beak Man. They work together to stop Peter's evil plan.



THE SPACESHIP

Peter and Emily are in their spaceship with magna crystals and they're headed directly to the sun! Peter is going to destroy all crystals.



WORKING TOGETHER

Laser Beak Man, Black Sheep and Emily work together to save the crystals and themselves. Peter and Laser Beak Man fight with their lasers. Black Sheep uses his special power of invisibility to help Laser Beak Man.



THE FIGHT

Black Sheep is hurt and it looks like Peter has the better of Laser Beak Man. Emily bravely steps in to save the day.

Peter loses his robot powers and control of the crystals.

On their way back to Power City, Emily shares the magna crystals with the whole world so everyone can have free power. This is just as she had wanted it to be all along.



MAYOR EMILY

Safely back at Power City, Emily explains that Black Sheep died to save them all. The other characters realise that they underestimated the brave Black Sheep and they should have been kinder to him.

The Mayor is angry that she doesn't have the magna crystals all to herself. The citizens of Power City vote her out and Emily becomes the Mayor!



HAPPY ENDING

Sam and his band play a song about **happiness**. The animations on stage become even more colourful and bright. You will see all the actors dancing with their puppets. Even Black Sheep is there!

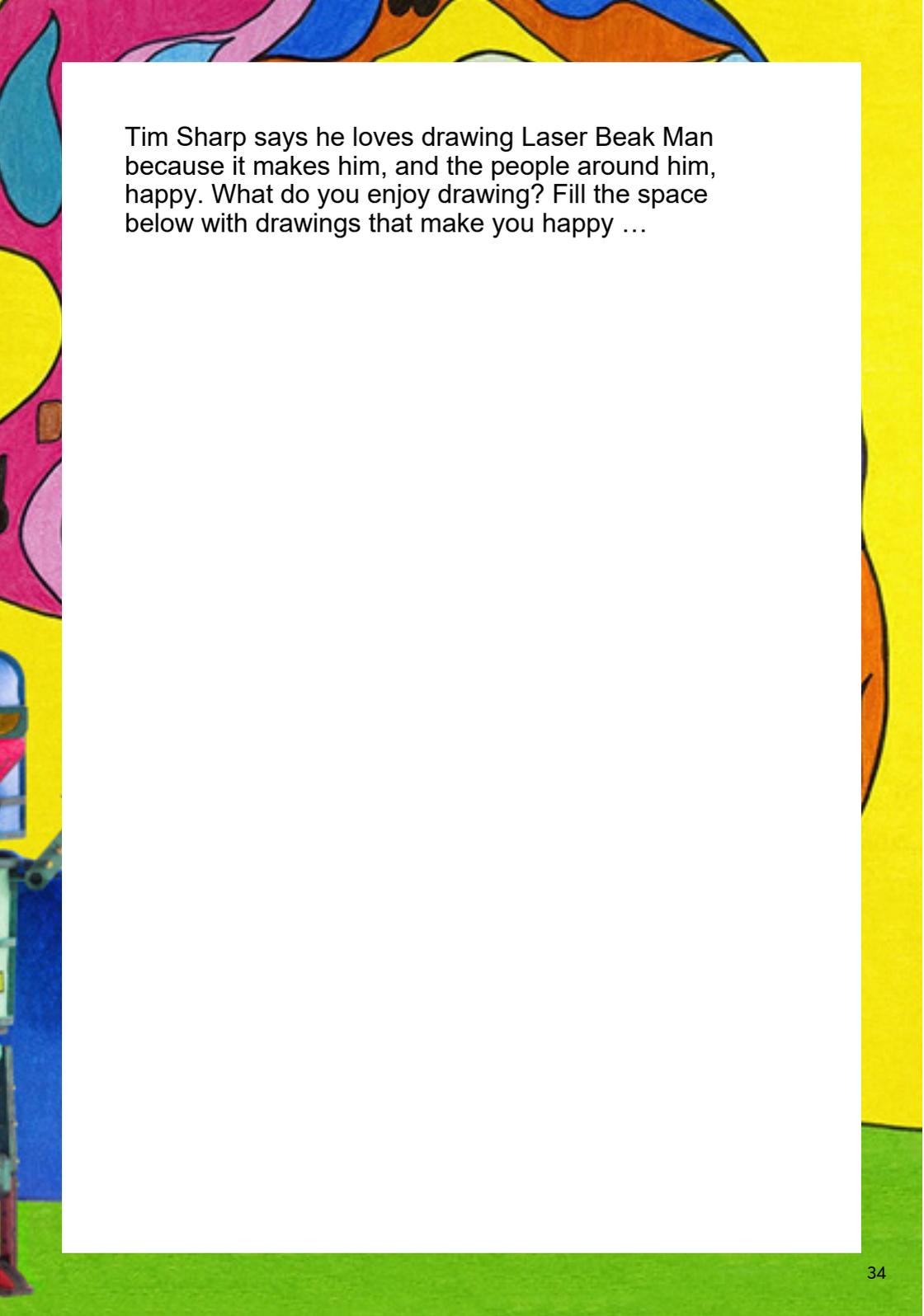
Confetti bursts from the stage and into the audience. The audience might clap along and dance to the music. It is a very happy ending.



CURTAIN CALL

At the end of the play, all the actors (and their puppets) and musicians will take a bow. This is called a **curtain call**.

During the curtain call the audience will applaud and maybe even cheer. This is how the audience thanks the actors for their performance. You can clap and cheer too if you want to.



Tim Sharp says he loves drawing Laser Beak Man because it makes him, and the people around him, happy. What do you enjoy drawing? Fill the space below with drawings that make you happy ...