

# LOCKED IN

WHEN THE ONLY KEY IS IMAGINATION



SHOCK THERAPY  
PRODUCTIONS

## **LOCKED IN** INFORMATION PACK

DIRECTED BY: VERONICA NEAVE. CREATED AND WRITTEN BY: VERONICA NEAVE AND SAM FOSTER.  
STARRING: SAM FOSTER AND JOHANNE FOSSEIM.



# SHOCK THERAPY PRODUCTIONS

## ABOUT THE COMPANY

Shock Therapy Productions was founded in 2015 by Sam Foster and Hayden Jones and has quickly established itself as one of the leading performing arts companies based on the Gold Coast. In this year, the company was awarded Accelerated Triennial Funding by City of Gold Coast for operational costs and to assist in the growth of the company. In 2018 this funding was renewed for a further 3 years.

Shock Therapy Productions aims to deliver Transformative Arts Experiences, and tell stories that are meaningful, thought-provoking, dynamic and entertaining, celebrating both the confronting and cathartic nature of performance.

Working across theatre, film and live events, Shock Therapy Productions aims to establish itself as a leading company in the delivery of high quality, relevant, multidisciplinary performance and a leader in the Arts and Culture Sector on the Gold Coast as well as Nationally and Internationally.

The company has produced a rapidly expanding catalogue of works, including a number of original productions, won 5 Matilda Awards, performed at venues and Arts Festivals in both Australia and Internationally and is proudly sponsored by the City of Gold Coast Council.

### FOR ALL ENQUIRIES AND BOOKINGS

E: [education@shocktherapyproductions.com.au](mailto:education@shocktherapyproductions.com.au)  
[www.shocktherapyproductions.com.au](http://www.shocktherapyproductions.com.au)

## AWARD WINS

2017 MATILDA AWARDS  
*Best Independent Production*  
– *The Forwards*

2016 MATILDA AWARDS  
*Best Independent Production*  
– *Viral*

2015 MATILDA AWARDS  
*Best Independent Production*  
– *The Pillowman*

*Best Director, Sam Foster*  
– *The Pillowman*

*Best Supporting Actor, Tama Matheson*  
– *The Pillowman*

## AWARD NOMINATIONS

2021 MATILDA AWARDS  
*Best New Australian Work*  
– *Undertow*

*Best Independent Production*  
– *Undertow*

*Best Sound Design*  
– *Undertow*

2017 MATILDA AWARDS  
*Best Actor, Sam Foster*  
– *The Forwards*

*Best Actress, Ellen Bailey*  
– *The Forwards*

2016 MATILDA AWARDS  
*Best New Australian Work*  
– *Viral*

*Best Actor, Sam Foster*  
– *Viral*

*Best Audio Visual Design, Nathan Sibthorpe*  
– *Viral*



## MEET THE CREATORS

### HAYDEN JONES - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Hayden is a performer and contemporary performance maker, working across a range of forms including theatre, installation, immersive experiences and cross art-form collaborations. He has worked as an Actor, Director, Writer, Producer and workshop facilitator, for some of Australia's most recognised and innovative arts organisations. He is a co-founder of Shock Therapy Productions.

Hayden also has an extensive background working in Youth Theatre, Children's Theatre and Theatre-in-Education, writing and directing shows for young people, and touring nation-wide performing and teaching workshops.

### SAM FOSTER - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Sam is a storyteller, performer and theatre maker. He is an award-winning Actor, Director, Writer, Producer, Stunt Performer and Stunt Rigger as well as being a Physical Theatre Performer, Movement Director and workshop facilitator. He is the co-owner and co-founder of Shock Therapy Productions.

Sam works in theatre, film and large-scale events and has worked for a number of companies and festivals throughout his career. His career has taken him to New York, London, Namibia, South Africa, Denmark, Norway and India as well as all over Australia.



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## SHOCK THERAPY P R O D U C T I O N S

PRESENTS: *LOCKED IN* WRITTEN BY SAM FOSTER AND JOHANNE FOSSHEIM

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### SYNOPSIS

Inspired by the rare medical condition “Locked-in syndrome”, in which a patient is fully aware but cannot move or communicate verbally due to complete paralysis of nearly all voluntary muscles in the body except for the eyes, *Locked In* is a multidisciplinary, physical performance exploring human connection, communication and our sensory and extrasensory experience of the physical world.

“However much I tried to beg and pleas, shout and scream, I couldn’t make them notice me”

*Locked In* follows the experience of a man who is a prisoner inside a useless body and his wife who cares for him at his bedside. The scene shifts between the harsh and painful reality of the hospital bed and the vibrant, heightened reality of his internal World.

As the man and his wife discover new ways to communicate with each other they find an inexhaustible reservoir of sensations previously unavailable to them and they become increasingly mindful of the powerful experiences of each sense.

The piece takes its inspiration from two true stories “Ghost Boy” by Marin Pistorius and “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” by Jean-Dominique Bauby who both shared their experiences of living with the syndrome in memoir.

“I can listen to the butterflies that flutter inside my head. To hear them one must be calm and pay close attention, for their wingbeats are barely audible. Loud breathing is enough to drown them out.”

*Locked In* is a story of love, commitment and tragedy while at the same time an exploration of the way in which we perceive (or fail to perceive) the beauty and detail of the world around us. It distills the nature our human connection as we focus in how this couple navigate their new circumstances.

The contrast of the two realities the man experiences (external and internal) is highlighted by a distinct contrast in movement between paralysis, as he lies in the hospital bed, and highly dynamic physical movement.

Visual imagery and animation is projected onto a screen that also acts as the hospital bed backdrop, the performers at times interacting with these images. The piece is scored by evocative and spacious music created by Guy Webster, giving voice to the rich internal landscape of a man who has no means of normal communication.



## ARTISTS INVOLVED

### PRODUCED BY

Shock Therapy Productions

### ORIGINAL CONCEPT

Sam Foster

### CO-CREATED BY

Sam Foster, Veronica Neave and Johanne Fosshiem (Norway)

### DIRECTED BY

Veronica Neave

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Hayden Jones

### AV DESIGN

Nathan Sibthorpe

### COMPOSER/SOUND DESIGN

Guy Webster

### LIGHTING DESIGN

Geoff Squires

## TECHNICAL INFO

The technical requirements for *Locked In* are minimal. The show can be adapted to fit into most spaces and uses minimal AV, lighting or sound FX that would easily be operated by one AV operator.

All AV and sound cues operated through Q-lab. Lighting is operated separately to AV and sound cues. State of the Boards and lighting designer files available upon request.

The set is a hospital bed and a hanging screen. It is small and portable and can be bumped in and out of the venue in a short time (2 hrs)

### THE SHOW REQUIRES MINIMAL TECHNICAL CREW FROM THE VENUE.

- 1 x LX operator
- 1 x Venue Mech
- 1 x Front of house staff

### MINIMUM STAGE DIMENSIONS ARE:

- 6m wide x 6m deep x 3m high

### VENUE TO SUPPLY

- Projector (front) with option for a short throw lens.
- Lighting desk and all LX fixtures.

### SHOCK THERAPY PRODUCTIONS TO SUPPLY

- All set, props and costumes
- Computer with all AV and sound cues installed

## DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Shock Therapy Productions was invited to collaborate with Norwegian state theatre company Nordland Teater to present a new theatrical work *Locked In* at the Vinterlysfestivalen in 2017. This was a unique International collaboration with one of Norway's largest Festivals and the first time an Australian company had been invited to perform at Vinterlysfestivalen.

After an initial creative development and rehearsal period a free showing of *Locked In* was presented at The Arts Centre Gold Coast, in the Space, in November 2015.

Another creative development and rehearsal period took place in September 2016 in Australia.

The show premiered at Godsbannen in Denmark on February 2nd, 2017. It was also performed at the Vinterlysfestivalen (Nordland Teater) in Mo I Rana, Norway, in Feb 2017.



## MARKETING COPY

### ONE LINE

*Locked In* is a multidisciplinary, physical performance exploring human connection, communication and our sensory and extrasensory experience of the physical world.

### SHORT

*Locked In* takes its inspiration from two true stories "Ghost Boy" by Martin Pistorius and "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" by Jean-Dominique Bauby who both shared their experiences of living with Locked-In Syndrome in memoir.

*Locked In* follows the experience of a man who is a prisoner inside a useless body and his wife who cares for him at his bedside. The scene shifts between the harsh and painful reality of the hospital bed and the vibrant, heightened reality of his internal World.

### EXTENDED

See full synopsis on Page 2.

## DURATION

60 minutes (no interval)

## CONTENT WARNINGS

Recommended for audiences 13+

## SELLING POINTS

- This is an International collaboration between Qld based company, Shock Therapy Productions and Norwegian actor and physical performer Johanne Fosshiem.
- *Locked In* is yet to have an official Australian premiere. The show could be pitched as the Australian premiere of *Locked In*.
- Vinterlysfestivalen (Winter Sun Festival) is the 2nd largest arts festival in Norway.
- Shock Therapy Productions were the winners of 4 Matilda Awards for *The Pillowman* at the Powerhouse in 2015 and *Viral* in 2016.
- The show is a unique style of physical story telling that is underscored by a chilling soundscape designed by Guy Webster.

## TRANSLATION OF REVIEW FOR LOCKED IN

### VINTERLYSFESTIVALEN, NORDLAND TEATER

*Reviewed by Kristian Rødvand, Rana Blad.  
Vinterlysfestivalen, Nordland Teater, Norway 2017.*

Vinterlysfestivalen has guest-performances from all over the world. This year Australia visited the festival for the very first time.

*Locked In* paints a strong, quiet and beautiful portrait of a trapped mind's desperate struggle when its vessel is unresponsive.

It's hard to imagine anything worse than being trapped in your own body. That's what happens to people with "locked-in syndrome". You are mentally fully conscious and aware, but completely paralysed and in certain cases people can only communicate by blinking with their eyes. *Locked In* takes us into the mind of a man who lives in this state.

At the start of the play we are confronted with the everyday-life of this man, when a singing nurse cleans his privates; A scene which is surprisingly funny. But there's not much fun being had for the man in this position, and the comedy is not pushed too far.

The paralysed man is interpreted exceptionally by Sam Foster. He's lying still in a hospital bed, but communicating so much despair through his expressive eyes. But he is not lying still the whole time. He moves in the poetic dream-sequences where his desperate inner struggle is played out.

In one scene he unfolds fully to the Mission Impossible-theme (very poignant), and dances a lightly acrobatic and intimate dance with Fossheim; Representing the desire to swing himself out of the bed and back into her life physically again. It is elegantly and gracefully executed.



Norwegian actress Johanne Fossheim plays the roles of the different people who visit him. Amongst others she plays his partner who tries to entertain him, and does everything in her power to help him in his situation. She watches a funny, running hamster-video off YouTube with him (something which is almost cruel to do to a person who can't move). Fossheim beautifully shows us the complexity of not being able to help the person you love. In a scene she tries to make love to him, without any luck (of course), and in the end she cries out in despair. It hurts to watch.

She also plays three different nurses; dressed the same each time, but behaving so differently that I interpret them as three different people who comes into the room to take care of him. These segments are nice moments from a paralysed person's everyday-life, but it would have been interesting to see other characters (with other relations to him) deal with the situation as well.

I also have to mention nice symbolic images. The butterfly is a returning symbol. It can be interpreted as his desire to fly back into the world again and be free of his bodily prison, or as an image of how his thoughts fly away as he is lying there. "My mind takes flight like a butterfly" is also written on the hospital curtain at the back towards the end.

*Locked In* gives us a dreamy, poetic and haunting dive deep into the mind of a person who suffers a fate worse than death.

All in all, it is an extremely well performed, beautiful and innovative piece of theatre".



*Locked In* paints a strong, quiet and beautiful portrait of a trapped mind's desperate struggle when its vessel is unresponsive.

KRISTIAN RØDVAND, RANA BLAD. NORDLAND TEATER, NORWAY 2017.

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