

WINNER OF 2016 MATILDA AWARD
BEST INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION



SHOCK THERAPY
PRODUCTIONS

viral

WHAT IS THE PRICE
OF INTERNET FAME?

VIRAL INFORMATION PACK

PRODUCED BY: SHOCK THERAPY PRODUCTIONS
WRITTEN/DEvised/PERFORMED BY: SAM FOSTER & HAYDEN JONES



SHOCK THERAPY

P R O D U C T I O N S

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 2015, Shock Therapy 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: admin@shocktherapyproductions.com.au
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

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 story teller, 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 PRODUCTIONS

PRESENTS: **VIRAL** WRITTEN BY SAM FOSTER AND HAYDEN JONES

PRODUCTION OVERVIEW

Viral is a new work written and devised by Sam Foster and Hayden Jones, Co-Founders of Shock Therapy Productions. It explores the role of social media and technology and how it impacts the way we record, communicate and think about events of racism, abuse, violence and sexual assault in the community. It explores the line between disassociation and raising awareness about such events, asking the question “is it better to record these activities and post it on the Internet or step in and stop it from occurring in the first place”?

Viral was inspired by a number of true events and broader societal changes facing Gold Coasters and the wider community. During the development of *Viral*, Hayden Jones and Sam Foster have engaged with various demographics and cultural groups on the Gold Coast, to hear a diverse cross-section of perspectives concerning the themes and issues in the play. This will involved contacting and actively reaching out to groups and individuals interested in sharing their insights.

The play fuses physical theatre, verbatim style text, AV projections and political theatre as it explores the issues around technology and documenting and sharing events and how it is impacting our lives. It looks are the role of the “bystander” in the modern age and the effects of living in an overly litigious society where everyone has access to a recording device that can broadcast every interaction to the entire World. *Viral* also explores desensitization, responsibility and the role of social media.

Viral was presented at the Arts Centre Gold Coast in September, 2016.

Viral was nominated for 4 Matilda Awards in 2016 (Best Independent Production, Best New Australian Work, Best Actor – Sam Foster and Best AV Design)

The production won the 2016 Matilda for Best Independent Production.

ARTISTS INVOLVED

PRODUCED BY

Shock Therapy Productions

WRITTEN BY

Sam Foster and Hayden Jones

DEvised BY

Sam Foster and Hayden Jones

DRAMATURGY

Veronica Neave

AV DESIGN

Nathan Sibthorpe

COMPOSER

Guy Webster

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Jason Glenwright



TECHNICAL INFO

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

All AV and sound cues operated through Q-lab.

The set is small and portable and can be bumped in and out of the venue in a short time (4 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

6m wide x 6m deep x 5m high

VENUE TO SUPPLY

3x Front Projectors
Standard Lighting Rig

SHOCK THERAPY PRODUCTIONS TO SUPPLY

All set, props and costumes.



DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE HISTORY

Viral was part of the Arts Centre Gold Coast 2016 program and premiered in “The Space” in September 2016. In addition to this main stage version of the show, a smaller, scaled down version of *Viral* is currently touring Qld schools.

As part of the Creative Development of *Viral* a public community forum was held at The Arts Centre Gold Coast on the 19th May 2016. We invited various cultural and community leaders to a facilitated forum, to openly share and discuss these issues and the themes of the production. The forum was facilitated by, City of Redlands Councilor and founder of Arts Evolution, Cr Paul Bishop.



SELLING POINTS

- Local produced and written play about local themes and issues that concern the community.
- Based on and inspired by true events.
- Explores themes and issues that are relevant to young audiences.
- Shock Therapy Productions were the winners of 3 Matilda Awards for “The Pillowman” at the Powerhouse in 2015.
- *Viral* was awarded Best Independent Production at the 2016 Matilda Awards

MARKETING PLAN

- Print and distribute flyers/posters around Brisbane and the Gold Coast through distribution company, Creative Distributions.
- Paid social media campaign through Facebook.
- Paid marketing in print magazines.
- Media release distributed to print and radio media outlets.



“thought-provoking, dynamic and entertaining piece that incorporates a range of performance styles and influences... an intense but highly entertaining piece”

BLUE CURTAINS

