

Embracing Shadows Tales of Suffering and Redemption

With Angela Knowles and Karen Berger

Acclaimed performers, Angela Knowles and Karen Berger have provocatively brought together *The Wild Swans* by Hans Christian Andersen and *The Book of Job* from the Old Testament with sung poems from *The Republic of Conscience*, published by Amnesty International to explore universal themes of suffering and redemption.

As in many great fairy tales, in *The Wild Swans* the cast out princess must wander, work and wait with patience till she achieves her moment of resolution. Job gets angry, demanding to be told why the world is so unjust. And in the end, he is answered and surrenders to a profound spiritual transformation.

The sung poems from *The Republic of Conscience* are powerful evocations of contemporary experiences of suffering from around the world. They also speak of the hope that can appear in the midst of despair.

Embracing Shadows crosses boundaries between storytelling, theatre and music – a poignant weaving of humour, passion and insight from two performers who bring nearly 50 years combined performance experience.

THE BOOK OF JOB

'Why do bad things happen to good people?' is the burning question asked in *The Book of Job*. Job's ardent quest to understand a seemingly unjust world is what makes the story so gripping. At the end, exhausted, he asks 'If only God would hear me...' and God does answer him, speaking with extraordinarily evocative imagery from out of the whirlwind. Perhaps originally a drama, Karen's intimate and intense performances have inspired strong positive responses among varied audiences in theatres, colleges, churches and synagogue since 2006.

'Karen brings the story to life in such a way that gives maximum impact. Her performance gets to the poetry but also the drama and the theological turmoil. The audience was clearly gripped by the performance. Job was no longer an archaic symbol but a palpable character with whom each person could identify...one of the most successful experience we have ever staged.' Michael Fagenblat lecturer, Australian Centre for Jewish Studies

THE WILD SWANS

Visiting Denmark as a young child, Angela became fascinated with the stories of Hans Christian Anderson. In 2008, with Scottish Arts Council support, she devised a performance of *The Wild Swans*, a beautiful and soulful tale of a young girl and her journey to find her lost brothers. Based on a Danish folktale, it is one of Anderson's finest and portrays the struggle and suffering of one person for the release of others.

'Angela displays a deep understanding and sympathy for the storytelling art. She brings the stories of Hans Christian Andersen vividly to life by connecting our dreaming hearts and souls with his and her own'.

Dr Donald Smith, Director, The Scottish Storytelling Centre

'I have been an admirer of Angela's storytelling for many years, but was totally captivated by her performance of *The Wild Swans*. A tour de force of storytelling - faithful to the text as written, but delivered in true oral traditional style. Angela sat on a chair, spoke to her audience for an hour and mesmerised them. Bea Ferguson, Storyteller, Scottish Storytelling Festival.

Karen Berger (Australia)

Karen Berger has had a long and richly varied career in the performing arts. She has studied and performed in Europe, Australia and Africa. A graduate in music and theatre, she is particularly interested in performance in traditional societies that has a transformational effect on the spectators. She has taken educative theatre to children in remote parts of Namibia and Australia; joyful pantomime to refugee camps in Slovenia; and devised challenging music theatre for the Edinburgh and Melbourne International Festivals.

Angela Knowles (Scotland/Norway)

Angela Knowles has performed and taught as a storyteller, singer and clown in Europe, Africa, USA, Australia and Asia. She has dedicated over 20 years to educational, healing and reconciliation projects through story and the Holy Fool, an archetype who lives fully in the present. Trained in improvised physical theatre, clown, and voice, she was highly influenced by master storyteller Duncan Williamson. As Creative Director of a UK initiative, aiming to 'let heaven and earth touch through story', she was keynote speaker for the Network of Biblical Storytellers in the USA and Australia.

Performance Staging Requirements

Performances can be staged in theatres with raised seating or in a semi-circle with audience & storytellers on the same level. Radio mikes are only needed only for large audiences otherwise no amplification is required.

Possible venues: Theatres, places of worship, church halls, community halls.
90 hours with interval.

Discussion - Workshop

Post performance discussions and workshops offering opportunities for others to explore the theme are also available.

Booking

There is a sliding scale of costs for professional and non-professional venues.

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Curriculum Vitae for Karen Berger and Angela Knowles follow:

KAREN BERGER

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ACTING & DEVISING

Melbourne and Northern Territory, 2005 - 2008

Book of Job, solo story telling Vic. College Arts; Shira Synagogue; various churches; schools
Navigators, Dir. Richard Murphet Melbourne International Art Festival
cross-disciplinary collaboration between VCA, Melbourne & Dasarts, Amsterdam
Song of Longing, Dir. Anne O'Keeffe V.C.A.
Polonius, Hamlet, Dir. Xan Coleman Dancing with Strangers
Commedia del'Arte & Plume D'Arte Ange schools touring shows Cultural Infusion

Accra, Ghana, 2002 – 2004

Jane Pilkings, Death and the King's Horseman (Wole Soyinka);
Janet, Through a Film Darkly (Joe De Graft) National Theatre
Sheila Birling, An Inspector Calls (J.B. Priestley) University of Ghana
Film Tenterhooks, Dir. Zack Orji; A Penance Paid, Dir. Charles Okafoe
T.V. Educational AIDS, Dir. J. Wartemberg; Home Sweet Home, Dir. I. Apea

Melbourne, 1994 – 2000

By the Seashore (Anna Akhmatova), solo poetry adaptation Montsalvat Poetry Festival; Boite
From the Republic of Conscience Victoria College Arts
dramatised poems published by Amnesty International, set to music I composed
Zaatar, Arab/Jewish performance group Melbourne
The Aural Sex Project, sound scapes, Dir. Trefor Gare La Mama Theatre
Lucy, The Muck of Life, Dir. Natasha Mullings First Hybrid Arts show, Vic.Coll.Art
New Year's Eve Fire Show, Dir. Neil Cameron Woodford Folk Festival
Toured a play about the history of astronomy CSIRO Education Unit
A-tension-span, dance, Dir. Natasha Mullings Victoria College Arts
Environmental education puppet shows National Parks, Victoria

Edinburgh, 1991 - 1993

Believer, Dir. Angus Grant Edinburgh Fringe Festival
Winner of Fringe First Award. Runner-up The Independent Award; site specific
Juliette, Exit the King (Ionesco), Dir. Andre Turnheim Traumland Theatre Co.
Iona, devised Traverse Theatre
Fanny, Marius (Pagnol) French Institute
The Cat, Dick Whittington, pantomime St Andrews Theatre
Sarah, The Train, Dir. Adrian Harris Theatre Workshop
Dancer and percussionist, Beltane Fire, Celtic festival Glasgow Performance Co.
Rumpelstiltskin, British Isles tour Edinburgh Puppet Co.
Clown shows France and Scotland

THEATRE DIRECTION

2007 - 2008 Second City (Tee O'Neil) Geelong Courthouse Youth Theatre
 featured rock band and video art
 Dapper (7 devised pieces) Platform Youth Theatre
 Short & Sweet Drum Theatre, Dandenong
 Winner: Best production, with Chinese & Sri-Lankan community groups
 The Golem of Ruckers Hill (assistant director) Platform Youth Theatre
 Le Petit Prince (Antoine de Saint-Exupery) Melbourne French Theatre
 my adaptation and musical direction
 Mister Om (contact juggler) Touring
 2006 The Destruction of Napata Victoria College Arts
 my adaptation of a traditional Sudanese story
 2005 The Odyssey, storytelling Trentham Festival
 Whodunnit (Jen Breach) Short and Sweet Festival
 Le Jeu de L'Amour et du Hasard (Marivaux) Melbourne French Theatre
 2004 Le Petit Prince (Antoine de Saint-Exupery) West African tour
 Voices On, new award-winning plays Townsville
 2003 Qui a Vole La Queue de Daawa? Ghanaian tour
 my adaptation of a traditional Ghanaian story
 Tro Tro!, The Blacks (Genet), Nongogo (Fugard) University of Ghana
 2001 Feeling Yes, Feeling No Namibia
 theatre-in-education show, radio version and music video

MUSICAL DIRECTION AND COMPOSITION

For theatre, using percussion and/or voice:

2007 - 2008 Playback Theatre Victoria
 2005 Bremen, Dir. Michael Camilleri. Award winner Melbourne Fringe Festival
 2000 My Bed is a Crocodile, Dir. Cath Ryan Victorian tour
 Nightflying, Dir. Sarah Cathcart The Women's Circus
 1999 - 2000 Walk on Water, Dir. Anne O'Keeffe Melbourne City Baths
 Forest, Dir. Jillian Pearce Horsham and Vic. College Arts
 1996 Growing Down, Dir. Mahoney Kiely Victorian College Arts
 The Colour of Pulse, percussion and dance St Kilda Town Hall
 1992 Nomad X, Dir. Toby Gough Bosnian refugee camps, Slovenia

For bands:

2005 - 2007 Teapot Ensemble of Australia Speigeltent, Melbourne Int. Arts Fest
 2003 I Climb, voice and harp-lute duo
 1997 - 2000 Berger & Goodrich, voice and vibraphone duo, Hop Jump Big Band,
 Wild Moves and Short Circuit African and Middle Eastern dance and drum ensembles
 Shillelagh, prize-winning Celtic band, Mother Tongue, a cappella group

TEACHING

Northern Territory, 2008
 Music & drama classes Tour of remote indigenous schools for The Song Room
 Melbourne, 2005 - 2008
 Teaching World Music in the Classroom Faculty of Music, University of Melbourne
 'Singing World Music' course s CAE, University of Melbourne Student Union
 Theatre voice and singing teacher Departments of Music & Theatre Arts, NMIT
 Performance Workshops for Musicians Department of Music, NMIT
 Commedia dell'Arte Workshop for Children National Theatre
 Music workshops for handicapped children Playback Theatre
 Townsville, 2004 & 2005
 Guest Director Department of Theatre Arts, James Cook University
 Accra, 2002 - 2004
 Acting tutor Department of Theatre Arts, University of Ghana
 Namibia, 2000 - 2001
 Coordinator Childline Schools Programme, Lifeline/Childline
 Melbourne, 1994 - 2000

Singing and Percussion trainer The Women's Circus
 Voice workshops Melbourne University Student Union
 Music tutor V.C.A.
 Edinburgh 1991-1993
 Singing, dance and drama workshops for disabled adults, women and children.
QUALIFICATIONS

2006 Grad. Dip. Animating, Victorian College of the Arts
 1997 B. Music Performance (Improvisation) majoring in voice, V.C.A.
 1988 B. Sc. (Hons I), Monash University

TRAINING

Melbourne, 2006 – 2008
 Butoh Bodyweather Tess de Quincy
 Ta Ke Ti Na Percussion Reinhard Flatischler
 Bodyvoice Workshop John Howard, Helen Sharp
 SITl Training: Suzuki Method, Viewpoints, Composition SITl Actors, Full Tilt
 Voices of the Archetypes Frankie Armstrong
 The Unfolding Character in Chekhov Robert Draffin
 Storytelling John Bolton

Brisbane, 2006
 Stomping Ground: Viewpoints, Suzuki Method Zen Zen Zo

Melbourne, 2005
 Performance Making Barry Laing
 Alchemy Improvised dance, Skinner Releasing technique Anne O'Keeffe

Paris, 2004
 Annual 6 week professional choreographic theatre and voice workshop Pantheatre

Accra 2001 – 2004
 Traditional dance and percussion University of Ghana

Namibia 2000 - 2001
 'The Artists' Way' Creativity Workshop Pathways Consulting
 Drama and Art Therapy Legal Assistance Centre
 Traditional Music in a Contemporary Context Pape Dieye, Emmanuelle Olivier

Melbourne 1994 – 2000
 Butoh and Suzuki method Greg Dyson, David Pledger
 Choreographic Theatre and Voice Enrique Pardo
 Improvised theatre and singing Al Wunder, Bronwen Barton
 Text Anna McRossin-Owen, David Myles
 Alexander and Feldenkreis techniques David Moore, Julia Scoglio
 Clown and Bouffon Christine Grace, Kate Kantor
 Jo Estill voice method Ros Barnes
 Percussion Chris Lesser, Epizo Bangoura, Anne Harkin
 Classical, jazz, tap and various ethnic dance styles

Britain 1991 - 1993
 Extended voice techniques Harriet Buchan, Claire Steele
 Polish physical theatre Gardzienice
 Physical theatre Theatre de Complicite
 Method acting Oxford Drama School
 Archetypes and voice John Wright, Frankie Armstrong
 Fooling and clown Jonathon Kay, John Lee
 Forum Theatre Al McIllopp

France 1990 - 1991
 Physical Theatre L'Ecole Jacques Lecoq
 Clown and Street Theatre 'Ecole Phillippe Gaulier, Theatre de L'Ombre

Angela Knowles

Festivals

International Storytelling Festival, Esfahan, Iran 2008
 Scottish International Storytelling Festival, 1993-2008
 Stories of our Faiths Festival, Glasgow, Scotland 2008
 East Renfrewshire Storytelling Festival, Scotland 2008
 Middle Eastern Festival of Spirituality and Peace, Edinburgh, Scotland 2004-7
 Aberdeen Storytelling Festivals 2001-2004
 East Renfrewshire Storytelling Festival 2004
 Director, 4-day storytelling festivals, Greenbelt 1998-2003
 Advisor to Scottish International Storytelling Festival 2004
 Glasgow Mayfest 1993

Tours

Advent Storytelling, Christmas Storytelling, England/Scotland 2006-7
 Storytelling Tours 6 states, USA 2003-2006
 Australia 2 states, storytelling/retreats/workshops 2005
 Norway and Zimbabwe 1997
 Storytelling/Workshops Turkey 1993

Performance

Storytelling, Nordstrand Steiner School, Oslo 2006
 World Methodist Church Council, Seoul, South Korea 2006
 Marks Gospel, epic solo telling, USA 2005
 Storytelling Session for Artslink - people with disabilities, Scotland 2005
 Dundee/Fife/Angus Libraries Scotland 2005
 Marks Gospel, ensemble theatre storytelling tour England 2004
 Storyteller, Barton College, North Carolina, USA 2004
 Fool in 'Love Like Salt', Tag Theatre, Glasgow, Scotland 2004
 Storyteller with tellers from Jerusalem, Scotland 2004
 Storytelling performances, USA 2002-4.
 Environmental Storytelling for schools, Aberdeenshire 1993-1997
 Storytelling for children with disabilities 1993-1997
 Storytelling and Workshops, schools/community/churches 1989-90
 Clown-storytelling performances 1989-1992
 Work in schools with Master Storyteller, Duncan Williamson 1991-1993

Projects

Children's Art Exhibition Project, Scottish Storytelling Centre 2008
 Storytelling for Hillhead Schools cluster, Glasgow 2008
 Stories and Cooking for Children Project, Scottish Schools 2004/2008
 Celtic Saints Storytelling Tours, Scotland 2002-2007
 King of Hearts Children's Storytelling and Art Project 2007
 Golden Rule Schools Storytelling Project 2007
 Story Interfaith Project 2004
 Multi-media Christmas storytelling for pre-schools, 1994-2004
 Schools, libraries, festivals, 1993-1997

Bursaries

Scottish Arts Council bursary Hans Christian Anderson Research 2008
 Scottish Arts Council bursary King of Hearts performance Art Project 2007
 Scottish Arts Council bursary Multi-faith Storytelling Research 2004

Conferences

Storytelling Faith to Faith Conference 2007
 Looking for Peace Storytelling Conference 2007
 Sacred Heart International Conference 2006
 Network of Biblical Storytellers Australia 2005
 Queensland Teachers, Australia 2005
 Network of Biblical Storytelling, USA 2003.

Residencies

Storyteller-in-Residence, Netherlee School, East Renfrewshire, Scotland 2008
 Storyteller-in-residence, Carberry Festival, Edinburgh 2004
 Storyteller in Residence, Carberry Arts Festival 1994

Teaching

Holy Fool Workshop, Edinburgh, Ireland 2008
 Authentic Teacher Courses, Dundee Education Authority, Scotland 2008
 Summer Fool Residential Course, England 2008
 Cornwall Methodist Churches, England 2008
 Holy Fool, Quaker Groups Gloucester/Birmingham, England 2007

Hereford Cathedral Storytelling Training, England 2007
Christ and the Clown Residential Course, England 2006/7
1 Year Training post, The Village Storytelling Centre, Glasgow 2006-7
Storytelling in Reconciliation and Peace Workshop, Suffolk 2007
Holy Fool workshop, Norway, England, Scotland, USA 2006
Holy Fool Courses, England, Scotland, USA, Australia 2005
Storyteller/trainer, preschools North Lanarkshire Education Authority 2005
Storyteller Trainer for Bristol Diocesan Conference 2005
Storyteller and Clown, 13 week fulltime course Emerson College, England 2005
Creative Director, National storytelling Initiative, England 1998-2004
Trainer, Institute of Biblical Translation, Moscow. 15 nationalities 2002.
Trainer, residential courses in storytelling skills 1998-2003
Holy Fool Workshops England, USA 1998-2003.
Adult Community Education in Performing Arts, Scotland 1993-1997
Workshops in song, traditional storytelling skills 1989-1992
Writing, Directing and Retreats
Golden Rule Schools Storytelling Teachers' Resource Pack 2007
Storytelling and Healing retreats 2005
Director, Performance Project for Young People with Down's Syndrome 1994-1997
Storytelling Retreats, Iona Abbey, 1989-1992

Education/Other Work

Certification in The Work of Byron Katie, (psychology) Europe/USA ongoing
The Artists Way Sabbatical, (art/Holy Fool) USA 2003
Northumbria Community , (monastic living/people/spirituality) England 1998-2004
Duncan Williamson (storytelling/ballads) Scotland 1990-2007
Johnathan Kay (fool) England/Scotland 1993-4
Philippe Gaulier, (clown) England 1992
John Lee, (clown) England/Scotland 1990
Ida Kellarova (voice) Wales/Denmark 1991
Foottime Centre for Performing Arts (circus/devising/impro/clown) England 1987-8
Goblins Catering Business (self-employment/food /decor/business) England 1986-7
Manpower Services Course, England (business) 1985
Restaurants, Italy (food/people) 1980-84
Link Student Theatre, England (impro) 1974-8