

veiling

...grief and delight...

PROGRAM NOTES

based on a poetry collection by
Greer Taylor

a collaboration between
Jillian O'Dowd & Greer Taylor

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19 November 2022
@ Cambewarra School of Arts
at the base of Cambewarra Mountain
'fire mountain' in Dharawal language

The cast and crew of *veiling: grief and delight* acknowledge
the traditional custodians of the land on which this event takes place.
We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Cast

Cacophony – Olivia Hodgkins	Director, Jillian O’Dowd
Lover F – Isabella Gallant	Design, Greer Taylor
Lover M – Matt Girdlestone	Musician & sound, Baxter Stone
Mother Earth – Jillian O’Dowd	Filmmaker, Harry Kielly
Herself – Greer Taylor	Photographs, Joseph Horvat

Characters

Cacophony – the magic that makes the universe, the sound of the life force

Lover F – lover earth (feminine/flora)

Lover M – lover earth (masculine/fauna)

Mother Earth – the sound of the earth talking to you

The poems in order of appearance

▷ dancing stories	▷ lacuna	▷ for a long time
▷ silent... not silent	▷ to fly again	▷ infertile ground
▷ incremental tears	▷ the way it has become	▷ proceed
▷ making ground	▷ into grief	▷ tears appear
▷ hanging	▷ here you stand	▷ together

Music and Art Credits

- ▷ Live prelude music: Max Kielly
- ▷ Entry music: *Let me Weep*, Rinaldo by Handel, Soprano: Kirsten Blaise, orchestra: Lascia ch’io pianga
- ▷ Exit music: *Harpichord Concerto No in D Minor* by Bach, BWV 1025 (Jean Rondeau)
- ▷ Recorded music: *the way it has become*, music by Baxter Stone, words by Greer Taylor
- ▷ Live music: *into grief*, music by Olivia Hodgkins, words by Greer Taylor
- ▷ Sculpture: *my feet grow roots and my soul touches the sky*, galvanised steel over wood, Greer Taylor
- ▷ Photographs: *forest views 1-4*, Joseph Horvat

Writer’s note: Greer Taylor

veiling: grief and delight is a collection of poems written in early 2020 while I was confined to a wheel chair and crutches after seriously injuring my foot while fire proofing my bush property in readiness for the likely onslaught of the Currowan fire (which never reached my place thanks to a wind change). I found myself unable to take physical action to assist animals or people; instead I found myself gifted an unburnt home, a home shared with a thousand other living beings, stilled into a place where I could do no more or less than hold the grief that was swirling at the time... so I wrote.

We have been collectively holding our breath for a long time, I see *veiling: grief and delight* is a shared exhalation that creates space for the more beautiful world to emerge.

Director’s note: Jillian O’Dowd

I met Greer just prior to black summer December 2019. Her ephemeral, lessons in grief exhibition at the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery touched my heart so deeply I knew I would enjoy teaching her the performance skills she needed and helping her develop the confidence to perform her own work to a larger audience. I was later very keen to develop her written word into a multi media format. The pandemic was thwarting Greer’s poetry being seen and heard on stage and screen with various cancellations of events such as the Sea Change Festival, so I conceptualised the ‘happening’ you are experiencing today, *veiling: grief and delight*.

‘Human beings’ disconnect from nature has created the current ‘human doing’. Greer’s poetry encourages my awareness and my capacity to really see this, learn, love and coevolve with mother nature. I’ve come to appreciate we are here to simply respect her magnificent dance of life and death. We have a duty of care to ourselves, each other and the planet to know/remember who we really are; that we love, who and what we love and how best to do just that.

To quote our *veiling* poet...."grief will inform our love"...thank you Greer, from the bottom of my heart.

BIOGRAPHIES

Greer Taylor: writer, designer, herself

Greer is a sculptor and poet, her practice is dedicated to exploring human connection to nature and the earth, especially at this time when we are so disconnected from the very thing that ensures the ongoing vibrancy of life for us and all beings on the planet... a focus which has brought her to researching and exploring grief as part of the human experience of being alive. Her sculpture has been exhibited in large public exhibitions such as *Sculpture by the Sea*, she has won 3 major sculpture awards; she exhibits regularly in both group and solo exhibitions – her most recent solo was at the Shoalhaven Regional Gallery, *ephemeral: lessons in grief*. Her public Sculpture *phases* was installed outside the Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre in June 2022. She has only recently ventured into performance-type work—such as *ghost trees*, a the public engagement grief project that was part of the Wollongong City Council project *Sculpture in the Gardens* at Wollongong Botanic Gardens. Together with Jillian O'Dowd and Harry Kielly, Greer was recently awarded a Create NSW CASP grant to explore and develop a storyboard for a film of her long form poem *coevolution: a chronical of death and decay*.

Jillian O'Dowd: Mother Earth, director, lighting operator

Jillian O'Dowd (NIDA BDA, LTCL Teachers Dip Music, Speech/Drama—Cert IV in Training and Assessment TAE40116 2019) has 30 years professional experience on Stage and Screen, as a classically trained actor, musician, voice artist, singer, drummer, director, teacher, facilitator, event manager and producer in Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Asia. She has performed numerous roles on stage for The Sydney Theatre Co, Belvoir St Theatre, The ARTSLAB KV NSW, Griffin Theatre Co., The Comedy Co. UK, TNT London touring musicals throughout Europe, Malta, Asia, and produced her own season of *Beautiful Bodies* at Leicester Square Theatre. Recent credits for Arena Media, SLR productions, ABC kids TV, ABC iview, Channel 9 Go, Stan, German, French and ITV UK networks. Jillian was T & D Consultant at LSDA school London. 2008-2011. She is the Education Director at TPAC and the Vocal Music director on *Shrek the Musical* for Ben May CST at The Shoalhaven Entertainment Centre 2023. Jillian produces and directs film clips, music and *Sweet Beats and Blues* events with Baxter Stone.

Olivia Hodgkins, Cacophony, singer/composer

Olivia is a passionate young creative, she has been a committed performer in many local productions with AMTC and Nowra Players, as well as having extensive success in vocal and acting categories at the Shoalhaven Eisteddfod. Twice she won the Shoalhaven Arts Board Medallion and the Youth Drama Awards for her HSC individual performance. In 2019, Olivia was shortlisted for the John Bell Shakespeare scholarship; In 2018 she was selected for competitive work experience at Sydney Theatre Company and the Belvoir Theatre. Southland Creative Inc's, My Home was a short film mentoring program that was integral in encouraging Olivia's passion as an inspiring filmmaker. Inspired by the program and her own songwriting, in 2021 she wrote and directed her debut short film, *Breaking Point*, which premiered at the start of 2022.

Isabella Gallant: Lover F, movement captain

Isabella has been performing for over 14 years, most recently showcasing her talent in The Performing Arts Collective's February 2022 production of *Chicago* as Liz and their July 2022 season of *Mamma Mia!* in the role of Tanya. Isabella also undertook the role of Dance Captain in *Heathers*, produced by The Performing Arts Collective in 2021 and was a Dance Ensemble Member for Albatross Musical Theatre's 2017 season of *The Little Mermaid*.

As a passionate choreographer who excels in dance composition, Isabella has additionally worked as the choreographic director for The Performing Arts Collective on their productions of Disney's *Moana Junior* and Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Isabella has commenced work as the choreographic director of *Shrek The Musical*, produced by Centre Stage Theatrics to be staged in the Shoalhaven in April 2023.

Matt Girdlestone: Lover M

Matt is excited to be involved in bringing *veiling: grief and delight* to life. He stepped back onto the stage in TPAC's *Mamma Mia* earlier this year, as the priest and part of the ensemble, after 3 years away from community theatre.

Matt has been involved in theatre since primary school—his first show was *Bugsy Malone* at Shellharbour's Roo Theatre; he elected drama as part of his HSC in 2020 presenting a Tarantino monologue as his major work. Matt has been in numerous productions at at Roo Theatre including playing Fenris Uulf in *The Lion, the Witch & the*

Wardrobe, one of the British Airmen in *Allo Allo* and the Lion in *Alice in Wonderland*, to name but a few. When not on stage Matt enjoys gaming and singing and is in the process of attempting to write his own song.

Harry Kielly: filmmaker/editor/DOP

Harry Kielly is a freelance filmmaker working under the name *Drummerboy Pictures*. In 2021 his short narrative film *Perspective* was nominated as a finalist in the *Flickerfest* International Film Festival, held at Bondi Beach in January 2022. He is passionate about capturing stories through film and has also worked in collaboration with *The Grow Love Project* in capturing short documentary films for NSW Landcare Services and the NSW Government in awareness in agriculture. Likewise he has collaborated with *Headspace* Nowra in documenting the painting and significance of a pride mural for the LGBTQIA+ community at Vincentia High School. As an enthusiastic drummer, he has also worked with musicians to create entertaining music videos and short films that are released and followed widely on YouTube.

Harry recently documented the 2022 Burradise Festival on the South Coast of NSW; worked with Visit Kangaroo Valley on promoting the area; shot and edited Jillian O'Dowd and Greer Taylor's short film *For A Long Time*; shot and edited a new narrative music film for musician Baxter Stone and will be working with Shark Island Productions on their upcoming regional documentary on Kangaroo Valley.

Baxter Stone: musician, sound desk

Baxter Stone is a singer songwriter and guitarist. He started out playing in bands in Adelaide; notably with *Primitive Painters* and *Puppethead*. He moved to Melbourne in the 80's to join *Lipstick Jack* (Siren/Aztec) and *Two Dollar Moon* (Siren/Aztec). Baxter moved to NSW and released four solos albums. He then moved and worked as a musician in London 2008-2012 inclusive, producing his *Slowburning* Album. He returned to NSW to play with popular south coast band *The Chocolate Dogs* as lead singer and guitarist and played 100's of venues, festivals and private parties in the South Coast of NSW and in Sydney. He now plays in a duo with actor/singer/drummer Jillian O'Dowd. They released their EP *Reel to Real* September 2022 with a successful live launch to an appreciative audience in Cambewarra.

Baxter's original music embraces blues, rock, folk, psychedelic, alt-country, rockabilly alongside his quirky, comic and soulful stories. He has been known to write a pop song with a mean left hook! Baxter has also designed, produced and performed in many music clips now available on you tube, shot and devised on Dharawal land in regional NSW.

Joseph Horvat: photography

Joseph is a physicist who also makes black and white photographs. His preferred way to capture images is with a large format film camera followed by processing the exposed film and printing the image with chemicals in a darkroom. His work has been published in numerous Photography Yearbooks and in photographic magazines. It has been exhibited in international/national photographic competitions/exhibitions. He won the *Judges Choice Award* at Mississippi Valley Salon of Photography. His work has also been selected for the *Hazlehurst Works on Paper* exhibition.

After the performance: Greer will be signing copies of the book on which this event is based; you can purchase individual poems as well. You will also be able to purchase access to Baxter Stone's song of *the way it has become*. Please join us to enjoy a coffee, tea or milo with a selection of cookies Greer has baked.

Thanks to: Nicki Simmons (costume maker), Ross Portener (lights), Lydia Calvitto (FOH), Carol Williams (Cambewarra Hall), Harry Kielly (filmmaker), Max Kielly (musician); Sally Thompson, Chris Pryor, George Black, Natalie McDonagh, Annette Tesoriero, ARTSLAB, Selena Hanet Hutchins, Sarah Butler, Ben May (TPAC/CST); Graeme Day (2ST commercial Shoalhaven Radio), Vanessa Harries ('The Slam' on Bay n Basin Radio); *special thanks to Greer's parents, Valentine and Terence Taylor without their support veiling: grief and delight would not have been able to take place; and to our partners: Joseph and Baxter ... and the Cambewarra community.*



WithinBeyond is a collaboration between Jillian O'Dowd and Greer Taylor

...created to invite curiosity...

with the intention of reconnecting humanity to nature and the heart of ourselves