



Danielle O'Keefe- Artistic Director

Danielle has worked in the Arts for over 18 years. Beginning her practice as a performer and vocalist, Danielle has in recent years honed her skills of leading, establishing a reputation as one of the country's leading youth arts creators.

After finishing her vocal studies in 2003 in London, Danielle returned to Sydney to conduct the Australian Youth Choir (AYC) and held that post until 2012 when she left to work in Outback Australia. Simultaneous to conducting the AYC, Danielle worked with companies such as the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP), Sydney Chamber Opera (SCO) The Australian Institute of Performing Arts (AIPA), Brent Street and PACT to create exciting works for and with young people. Alongside her work with young people, Danielle has directed MainStage shows at the Seymour Centre, The Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Complex and Murrumbidgee Theatre.

Danielle established The House That Dan Built in 2015, which houses the Toy Choir, a singing and ukulele playing ensemble of young girls which Danielle initiated and conducts. The Toy Choir is uniquely hearing the ideas and impressions of girls and young women in Australian today. Members of the Toy Choir also participate in the Akin program, which sees Danielle facilitate creative workshops for girls all over regional NSW.

As Artistic Director of Outback Theatre for Young People, Danielle was responsible for a \$250,000 budget delivering two festivals in regional NSW using voices and local storytellers to bring the environment to life.



KIRI JENSSEN - Group leader/cast

16-year old Kiri has been performing since the age of 5 and has appeared in 8 operas, twice as the First Spirit in OA's The Magic Flute. She is an ensemble member of The House That Dan Built and is thrilled to be going to Tokyo to perform in Sydney Chamber Opera's experimental opera The Howling Girls.

EMILY PINCOCK- Percussionist/cast

Emily Pincock is a member of the training artist ensemble at The House the Dan Built and has performed in the devised show called SALT in the Bondi pavilion as well as their devised work Tender Young Creatures. She performed as part of the teenage girl chorus for the sold out and critically acclaimed new opera 'The Howling Girls' with Sydney Chamber Opera. Emily performed as 'Poppy' in the play Good, Die Young for the 2018 Sydney Fringe. Emily and the House ensemble collaborated with Angelica Mesiti on her 2019 Venice Biennale project called 'ASSEMBLY'.

GRACE CAMPBELL - Group leader/cast

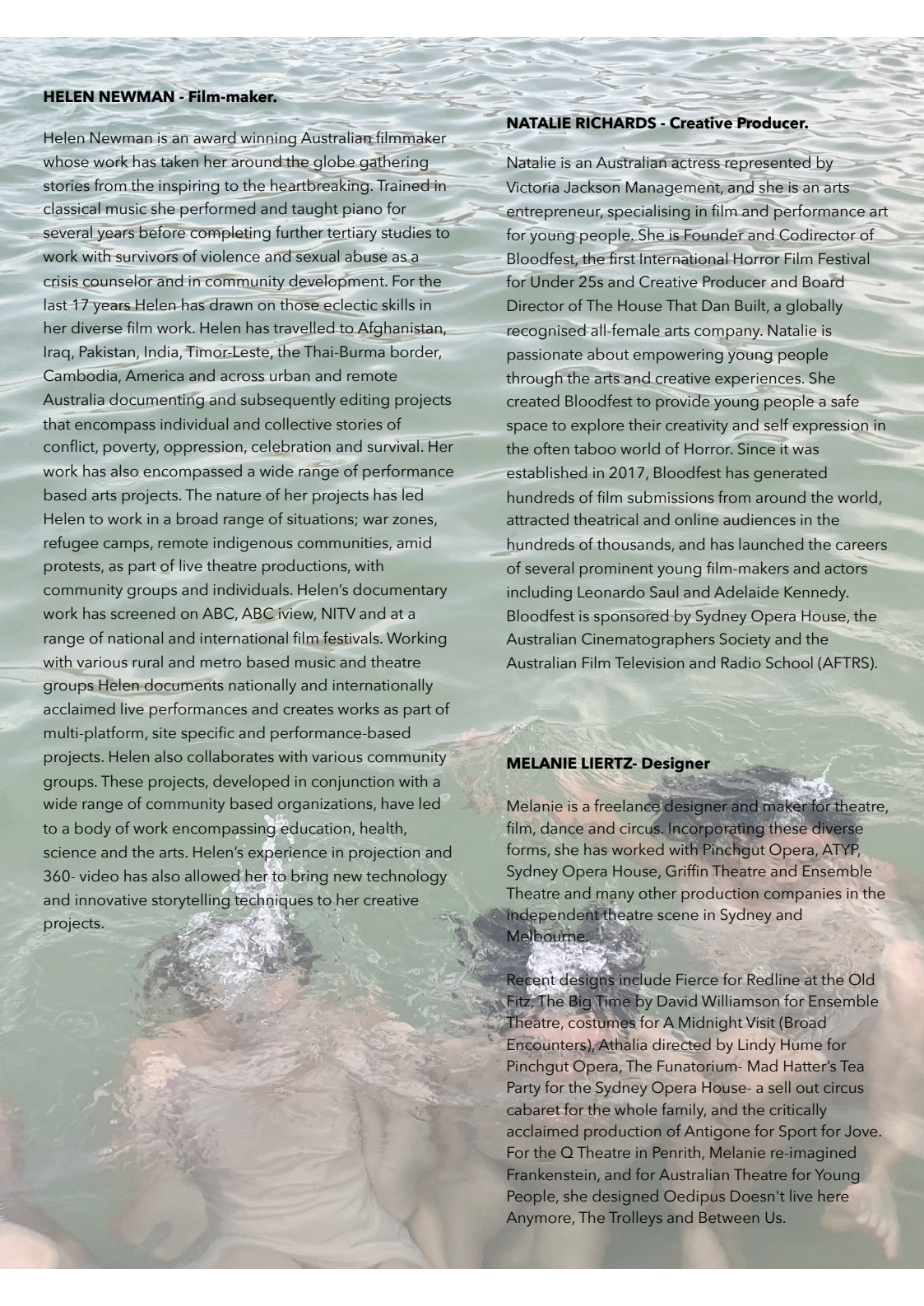
Grace Campbell is a core member of The House and is a creative member of Tender Young Creatures and Salt with The House. She has trained in both singing and acting since the age of 11 and is a vocalist in Sydney Chamber Opera's world premiere of The Music Theatre Now award winning 'The Howling Girls' in 2018 and 2019 for Tokyo Festival. Grace was also a member of the chorus of Angelica Mesiti's work ASSEMBLY for the Venice Biennale in 2019.

RUBY McVICAR- Visual Artist

Ruby McVicar is a Sydney born artist, who works as a creative director and artist utilising a multitude of mediums to create dreamlike, obscure portrait/character-based artworks, with a mixture of stylistic inspiration from surrealist, realistic and contemporary art. She has worked on many projects that range from murals, costume design for modern productions, commissioned paintings, character design, and illustrations & themed art pieces for Good Material Mag, and Lithium Magazine.

IRIS SIMPSON- Ensemble leader - text coach/ cast member

Iris Simpson is a writer and performer based in Sydney, Australia. She is interested in the intersections between language, feminine experience, and the power of music as a form of storytelling. As a member of The House that Dan Built ensemble, Iris devised and performed in all three developments of Tender Young Creatures, and performed at the opening of the 2018 Blake prize. She was selected to perform in Angelica Mesiti's video work, ASSEMBLY, for the 2019 Venice Biennale d'Arte. Iris has been performing in plays since she was 12, and has appeared in multiple ATYP plays. She has written extensively for House that Dan Built shows, with a writing background in poetry.



HELEN NEWMAN - Film-maker.

Helen Newman is an award winning Australian filmmaker whose work has taken her around the globe gathering stories from the inspiring to the heartbreaking. Trained in classical music she performed and taught piano for several years before completing further tertiary studies to work with survivors of violence and sexual abuse as a crisis counselor and in community development. For the last 17 years Helen has drawn on those eclectic skills in her diverse film work. Helen has travelled to Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Timor-Leste, the Thai-Burma border, Cambodia, America and across urban and remote Australia documenting and subsequently editing projects that encompass individual and collective stories of conflict, poverty, oppression, celebration and survival. Her work has also encompassed a wide range of performance based arts projects. The nature of her projects has led Helen to work in a broad range of situations; war zones, refugee camps, remote indigenous communities, amid protests, as part of live theatre productions, with community groups and individuals. Helen's documentary work has screened on ABC, ABC iview, NITV and at a range of national and international film festivals. Working with various rural and metro based music and theatre groups Helen documents nationally and internationally acclaimed live performances and creates works as part of multi-platform, site specific and performance-based projects. Helen also collaborates with various community groups. These projects, developed in conjunction with a wide range of community based organizations, have led to a body of work encompassing education, health, science and the arts. Helen's experience in projection and 360- video has also allowed her to bring new technology and innovative storytelling techniques to her creative projects.

NATALIE RICHARDS - Creative Producer.

Natalie is an Australian actress represented by Victoria Jackson Management, and she is an arts entrepreneur, specialising in film and performance art for young people. She is Founder and Codirector of Bloodfest, the first International Horror Film Festival for Under 25s and Creative Producer and Board Director of The House That Dan Built, a globally recognised all-female arts company. Natalie is passionate about empowering young people through the arts and creative experiences. She created Bloodfest to provide young people a safe space to explore their creativity and self expression in the often taboo world of Horror. Since it was established in 2017, Bloodfest has generated hundreds of film submissions from around the world, attracted theatrical and online audiences in the hundreds of thousands, and has launched the careers of several prominent young film-makers and actors including Leonardo Saul and Adelaide Kennedy. Bloodfest is sponsored by Sydney Opera House, the Australian Cinematographers Society and the Australian Film Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

MELANIE LIERTZ- Designer

Melanie is a freelance designer and maker for theatre, film, dance and circus. Incorporating these diverse forms, she has worked with Pinchgut Opera, ATYP, Sydney Opera House, Griffin Theatre and Ensemble Theatre and many other production companies in the independent theatre scene in Sydney and Melbourne.

Recent designs include Fierce for Redline at the Old Fitz, The Big Time by David Williamson for Ensemble Theatre, costumes for A Midnight Visit (Broad Encounters), Athalia directed by Lindy Hume for Pinchgut Opera, The Funatorium- Mad Hatter's Tea Party for the Sydney Opera House- a sell out circus cabaret for the whole family, and the critically acclaimed production of Antigone for Sport for Jove. For the Q Theatre in Penrith, Melanie re-imagined Frankenstein, and for Australian Theatre for Young People, she designed Oedipus Doesn't live here Anymore, The Trolleys and Between Us.

JAYDEN SELVAKUMARASWAMY - Ensemble leader/cast member

Jayden Selvakumaraswamy is an Ensemble leader and artist of The House That Dan Built. Jayden has trained in music and voice since she was eight, also studying one year at the Australian Institute of Music. She is a vocalist in Sydney Chamber Opera's world premier of Howling Girls in 2018 & 2019 for Tokyo Festival. She performed in the chorus of Angelica Mesiti's work ASSEMBLY for the Venice Biennale 2019. Jayden has been a core ensemble member of The House for six years and continues to explore the female voice and its development over time through music.

Yunyu Ong - Composer/Mentor

Born in Singapore, Yunyu is a multi-instrumental film and games composer with a strong background in world music and contemporary pop. She is a multi-lingual lyricist and storyteller who has a background in multiple musical genres and is a graduate of the prestigious Australian Film Television Radio School graduate diploma screen composing course. Starting as a successful singer-songwriter who has won Australia's biggest songwriting competition Triple J's Unearthed, Yunyu has since been commissioned by major book publishing companies Random House and Harper Collins for award winning authors Marianne De Pierres and Kylie Chan to write music for their books. She is the composer of several films and documentaries and is now working on music for virtual reality. Yunyu is the Winner of Crystal Pine awards in the International Film sound and Music Festival for best score for short, Drover's Boy.

Yunyu is currently working with Palm Beach Pictures on developmental works in Singapore and Australia.

KITU HOYNE - Group leader/cast

Kittu Hoyne is a singer and performer based in Sydney, trained in classical voice, with a background in contemporary and classical dance and the Suzuki actor training. Kittu has had a variety of professional performing roles ranging from classical opera to contemporary chamber ensembles. She performed with Opera Australia as the second spirit of the spirit trio in Opera Australia's The Magic Flute originally directed by Julie Taymor with a full season at the Sydney Opera House. She also performed in Pinchgut Opera's, The Chimney Sweep at Angel Place Recital Hall. In 2018, she was invited to perform in Sydney Chamber Opera's world premiere opera, Howling Girls with a season at Carriageworks, directed by Adena Jacobs and composed by Damien Ricketson. As a member of the all female ensemble The House that Dan Built, directed by Danielle O'Keefe, Kittu with ensemble members devised and performed the show Tender Young Creatures with seasons at Carriage works and Bondi Pavilion as well as the opening of the 2018 Blake Prize. Kittu is one of the selected performers who will be singing and performing in the video artwork representing Australia at the 2019 Venice Biennale, directed by Angelica Mesiti. She was a former member of Sydney Children's Choir with performances with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and Jessica Mauboy. She is currently a member of the new group Toy Choir committed to original works and songwriting and performances in festival settings. The choir has performed with Paul Capsis at the opening of the 2016 Sydney Mardi Gras with the performance broadcast on SBS television and a tribute performance to David Bowie at the 2017, Sydney Festival.

