

MEDIA RELEASE

MAGICAL HOUSE SAVES THE LONELIEST CHILD

HOUSE

By Dan Giovannoni
Barking Gecko Theatre
WORLD PREMIERE

Prepare to let your spirits soar when **Barking Gecko Theatre's** mad-cap adventure fairy tale *HOUSE* makes its much-anticipated world premiere at **Perth Festival**.

HOUSE is the new work from playwright **Dan Giovannoni** and Barking Gecko's Artistic Director **Luke Kerridge**, the duo behind the Helpmann Award-winning stage hit *Bambert's Book of Lost Stories*, which Barking Gecko Theatre recently re-staged in Perth after four years of touring nationally and internationally.



Image cr. Richard Hedger

Featuring a cast of three loveable characters and a magical flying home, *HOUSE* is a heart-felt and hilarious tale of friendship and belonging that is bound to be a fun-filled escapade for the whole family.

Suitable for ages eight and above, the story follows Cathelijn (pronounced *Cat-a-line*), who finds herself alone in the centre of a dark forest, with no friends or family to turn to. And that's when she sees the house, a higgledy-piggledy mess of a place as tall as the trees. Inside, she finds Piotr, a small boy who never stops talking, and Elka, a grey-haired explorer who insists they keep the curtains closed tight.

When they suddenly launch into the air and set off across the sky, Cathelijn learns that this is no ordinary house: it's a rescue house, and it rescues the Loneliest Child in the World. So begins an extraordinary adventure that takes Cathelijn across the world and deep inside herself, on a journey of self-realisation and self-determination.

Barking Gecko Theatre has been in 21 Perth Festivals over the theatre company's 30-year history, most recently with the world premieres of *A Ghost in My Suitcase* in 2019 and *The Rabbits* in 2015. This is testament to the value placed by the Festival on high-quality work for children.

Perth Festival Artistic Director **Iain Grandage** said Barking Gecko Theatre had an astounding record of creating extraordinary theatre that inspired children to imagine the world anew. 'It is a thrill to have *HOUSE* as a Festival presentation for 2021,' he said. 'This delightful play with a giant heart is filled with Luke and Dan's trademark theatricality and wonder, and simply shouldn't be missed.'

Director **Luke Kerridge** said *HOUSE* had been developed over a period of almost four years, but it had taken on new resonances for these times. 'The play explores loneliness and isolation, but also how resilience can lead us to a place of belonging,' Kerridge said. 'Ultimately *HOUSE* is a work of hope, that will offer children a unique way of interpreting our ever-changing world.'

'I'm thrilled to be working with Dan Giovannoni again on this incredible new work. He is one of the most exciting playwrights in Australia right now who shares my aspiration in creating ambitious new stories for young audiences on stage.'

'Visually, *HOUSE* is captivating. Our Designer **Charlotte Lane** has created a world of exquisite detail and Contraptions Designer **Philip Millar** (Global Creatures' *King Kong*) has come up with some truly magical surprises. Combined with an original score from **Rachael Dease** and lighting by **Richard Vabre**, it is a production that will capture the imaginations of children and adults alike, crafted by a team of extraordinary artists.'

HOUSE is co-produced by [Barking Gecko Theatre](#) and Perth Festival.

WHAT: HOUSE

WHERE: Heath Ledger Theatre / Yandilup / Northbridge

WHEN: 14-20 Feb 6.30pm (also Sat 30 Feb 2pm)

HOW MUCH: \$29 – \$49 (Family pack \$135)

BOOKINGS AND FESTIVAL INFO: perthfestival.com.au

Click here for a [media kit](#) and [images](#). For further information, interviews or images please contact:

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Perth Festival acknowledges the Noongar people who continue to practise their values, language, beliefs and knowledge on their kwobidak boodjar. They remain the spiritual and cultural birdiyangara of this place and we honour and respect their caretakers and custodians and the vital role Noongar people play for our community and our Festival to flourish.