



Performing Lines WA

## company background information

### About Steamworks Arts Productions

Sally Richardson is fascinated by the re-creation and telling of stories. Drawing inspiration from contemporary life, history, visual artists, Australian stories and shared experiences, her company Steamworks Arts Productions creates meaningful performances which speak to diverse audiences.

Sally's process is driven by collaboration and she often involves all key artists in creative research and the construction of the narrative. Her ability to direct large-scale hybrid performances involving physical theatre, dance, music, circus, and puppetry with multiple choreographers is well known.

Steamworks initiates, promotes and supports the development of Australian creative talent. They seek to generate and tour their productions regionally, nationally and internationally. 2010 will see the company's 10th anniversary.

### Quotes

*"I believe that all stories change over time, that the same story can be told over and over and it will never be 'exactly' the same story."* Sally Richardson, 2009

*"Sally Richardson's *The Drovers' Wives* is a knockout. You could laud it for its polished production and fine design: Zoe Atkinson's costumes; Andrew Lake's set and lighting; Ashley de Prazer and Dank Micich's video design; and Iain Grandage's music. They all create vivid, beautiful and evocative images that could only suggest the Australian outback, but more than that, the show touches the heart...Richardson brilliantly taps into the psyche of an immigrant society that has inherited the idea that where we find ourselves, physically and mentally, is not really home"*

Rita Clarke, *The Australian*, PIAF 2006

*"The Drovers' Wives; a groundbreaking world premiere .Translating historical subjects via movement is always a challenge, but Steamworks under Sally Richardson's expert direction proves itself up to the task. In collaboration with her talented team, she has created a multi-layered synergy of music, dance, adapted text and visuals that provides a compelling insight into our past - and present cultures....a stunningly performed and perfectly realised work of art."* Naomi Millet, *The West Australian*, PIAF 2006

*"Sally Richardson.....regarded in Western Australian theatre as one of its most creative talents."* Charles Purcell, *Sydney Morning Herald* 2003

*"The Drovers' Wives conquered Shanghai Audiences... this work is pure joy of art."* NR, Shanghai, 2007

*"This show was new in style and a most important event to open the 5th Beijing International Dance Festival."* Jing Bao News, Beijing, 2007

## Biography

### **Sally Richardson**, Producer/ Artistic Director

Sally is an award winning director/creator/writer and producer. Her work has been presented at major festivals, nationally and internationally. Sally has worked in Australia for over 20 years with independent artists, companies, and organisations including; Sydney Theatre Company, Australian National Playwrights Centre, Perth Theatre Company, Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre Company, Deckchair Theatre, Black Swan Theatre Company, Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, The National Institute of Circus Arts, The Malthouse Theatre, The Flying Fruitfly Circus, ABC Radio, Performing Lines, NIDA, & WAAPA amongst others. She was co-director of Playworks (93-95) and Artistic Director of Stages WA (95-02).

Sally was a member of the Theatre Board of the Australia Council (2001 - 2005) and is currently a board member of Spare Parts Puppet Theatre. In 2006 she received a dramaturgy Fellowship from the Theatre Board of the Australia Council to develop skills in the dramaturgy of multi-artform performance including circus and puppetry, and in 2008 received a Creative fellowship from the Department of Culture and the Arts (WA) which saw her undertake a program of activities in Melbourne, Sydney and Asia.

Recent credits include; Director/devisor *Rhapsody* for the National Institute of Circus Arts, and Devisor/director *The Promise*, for The Flying Fruitfly Circus, Sydney Festival 2009. *The Promise* recently won a 2009 Helpmann Award for Best Children's Presentation.

Sally is currently the creative director of *Live@Woodside 2009* Community Arts Investment Program.

## Works

- 2008** *Kids' Stuff*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, Tower Studio
- 2008** *The Drovers' Wives*, WA Wheatbelt Festival, Northam WA
- 2007** *The Drovers' Wives*, Tian Qiao Theatre, 5th Beijing Dance Festival
- 2007** *The Drovers' Wives*, Majestic Theatre, 9th China Shanghai International Arts Festival
- 2006** *The Drovers' Wives*, Playhouse Theatre, Perth International Arts Festival
- 2005** *Medea 05*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
- 2005** *Savage Grace*, La Mama Theatre, Melbourne
- 2005** *The Drovers' Wives*, Perth International Arts Festival Launch
- 2004** *The Drovers' Wives*, Perth International Arts Festival Development Showcase
- 2004** *Nocturne*, Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts
- 2004** *Nocturne*, Belvoir St, Downstairs Theatre, Sydney (in association with B-Sharp)
- 2003** *The Drovers' Wives*, International Women's General Assembly, Perth
- 2003** *Savage Grace*, Darlinghurst Theatre, Sydney, New Mardi Gras (in association with Performing Lines)
- 2002** *The Other Woman*, Rechabites Hall, Perth (in co-production with Black Swan Theatre Company)
- 2002** *Savage Grace*, Subiaco Theatre Centre, Perth (in association with Black Swan Theatre Company)
- 2001** *Savage Grace*, Blue Room Theatre, Perth

## Resources

[Steamworks Arts Productions](#) website

[Steamworks Arts Productions](#) facebook

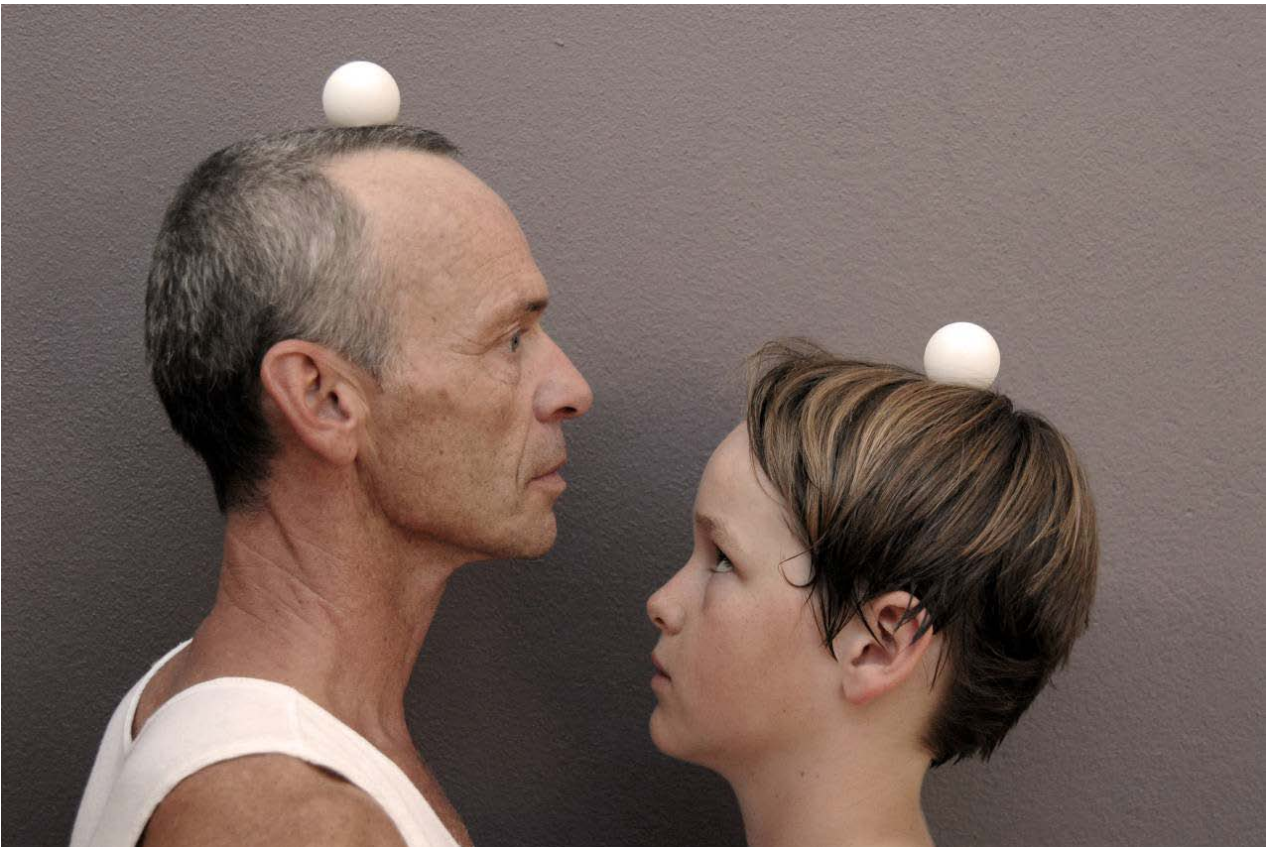
[Sally Richardson](#) Interview with Anna Lozynski, Australian Stage, Nov 2008

Images of selected works

**Eliza**, (currently in development) Images by Ashley de Prazer



**Rites**, (currently in development) Image by Ashley de Prazer





MEDEA, 2005, Image by Jon Green

