

A collaboration between Oily Cart (UK)  
and Polyglot Theatre (AUS)

# When the World Turns

Join us in a living, breathing, sensory adventure

*Oily Cart*

**polyglot**  
theatre is child's play

# Audience Booklet






# You are Here... (and we're very glad you are)

## Welcome to **When the World Turns**

This show took us four years to grow. It is a collaboration across time and space, made with award-winning Australian theatre company, Polyglot.

The initial seed was a conversation about access to nature and wildness, with a family who have a disabled child. This led us to Eco-scenographer (mixing ecology, sustainability and theatre design) Dr Tanja Beer, and the idea of 'biophilia', which means humans' fundamental need for nature.



**When the World Turns** brings theatre and nature together, weaving biophilic patterns (like 'presence of water' and 'risk and refuge') into the design so that hopefully you all leave feeling more relaxed, refreshed and connected. When you can't access nature, these design tips can be used wherever you are to help you regulate and feel more connected to the world around you.

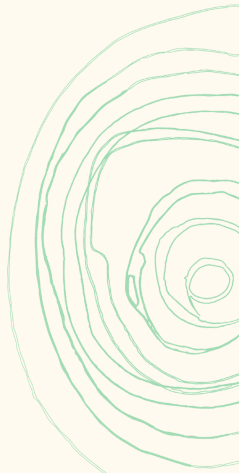
Here, you can be yourself, and be together. It's okay to move around, make noise, leave and come back in, **it won't disrupt the show** – this world is made for you.

In this booklet, you'll find a **visual guide** of what's going to happen in the show, and some ideas for **sensory activities** to try at home or in school afterwards.

**When the World Turns** continues to evolve and grow, with different offshoots touring to different countries, from a festival in New York to schools in Melbourne. We're so happy to welcome you to this performance. **You** are the most important part of Oily Cart's eco-system.

The world turns, the world breathes, the world is different now **you** are here.

The Oily Cart team x



# When the World Turns Visual Guide



I am coming to  
**When the World Turns.**



The show is about this poem:

Rooted in our ecosystem  
Unseen life surrounds us  
Ripples make great waves  
Together we will weather storms  
World breathes, world turns



It will last for **1 hour.**



I can **make noise** at any time in the show.



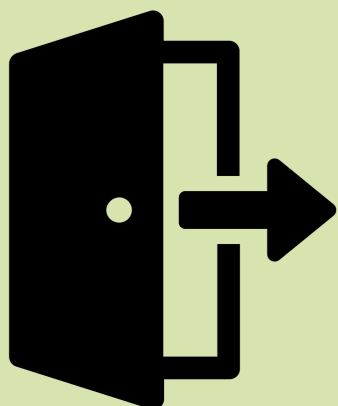
If I need **help**, I can ask for it using my eyes, signs, sounds, words or movements.



The cast will **interact** with me and the adult I am with.



**I am allowed to say or sign 'No'** if I do not want something near me.



I can **leave** at any time and **come back** when I am ready.



If I need a quiet space, I can go to the **Quiet Room** in the theatre.



If I am enjoying the show but the sound is a bit too loud, **I can use ear defenders.**



The show will happen under a **canopy**, surrounded by plants.



I can **enter early to settle** into the space.



I will meet **Kim**.



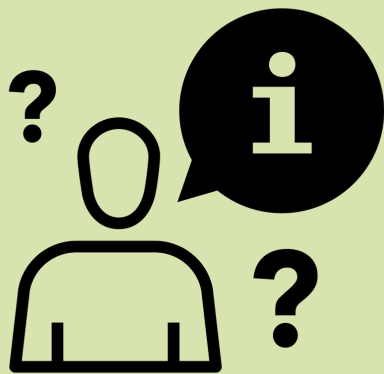
I will meet **Ed**.



I will meet **Nisha**.



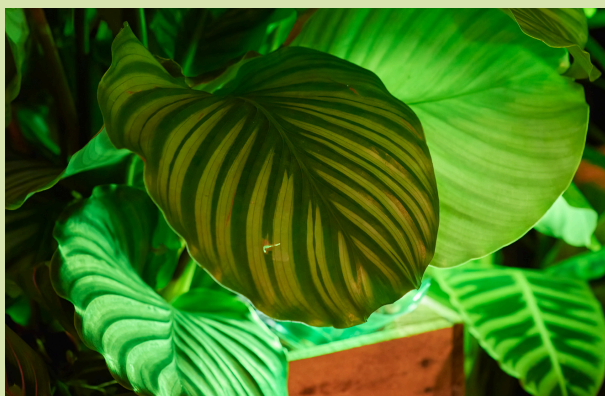
The performers will bring a **map** for me to feel. The adult with me will have it throughout the show.



Inside the space, there will be **people who can help** me during the show.



They will be wearing **blue overalls** or a **black Oily Cart t-shirt or hoodie**.



Inside the space, there will be **many plants**.



Plants are living beings,  
and we touch them with  
**gentle hands.**



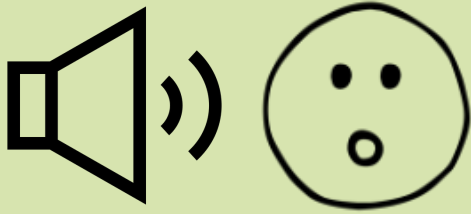
There will be baskets that  
have rough things that I  
can **fidget with**, bite and  
break.



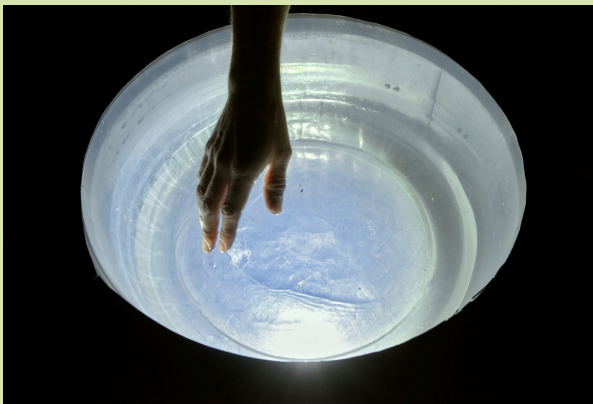
I will **sit next to other  
people and the adult with  
me** in our own area.



I will hear many **different  
sounds** and music.



I will hear soft or **sudden noises** from different parts of the space.



There will be a big **bowl of water** that I can play with and make shadows on the canopy roof.



There will be **different lights** in the space. They will change during the show.



After playing with water, there will be **soft flashing lights** that are like lightning.



The flashing lights are **not** **strobe** lights.



I will meet **puppets** made of objects.



The performers I have met are **moving the** **puppets**.



The puppets will come near me. I can **touch them** freely.



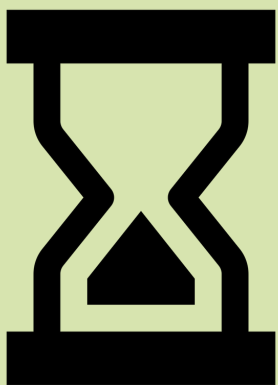
At one point, a **shelter** will appear around or above me.



When I am in the shelter, the performers will **spray the smell of trees and fruits** into the air.



The **scents** used are **juniper** and **vetiver essential oil**.



The performers will tell me when the show has **finished**.



I can have my **photo** taken at the end if I want to.



We will respect people's privacy and **avoid taking photos that include other audience members.**

# At Home Activities

## Shadow Play

What you will need:

- Plant mister filled with warm water and a few drops of essential oil. (We recommend juniper berry, but you can use any smell you like that is natural)
- Torch / phone torch
- Plants, or small branches collected from outside
- Optional: coloured cellophane (like used sweet wrappers)



Activity:

- Turn off the lights
- Spray the plant mister
- Use the torch to make shadows of plants or branches on the ceiling and walls. By slowly and smoothly moving the torch, you can make it feel like you're moving through the undergrowth
- You can also have great fun making shadows that include your child's body or wheelchair
- Add colour by putting coloured cellophane onto your torch
- It's great to accompany this with music, or nature sounds

Top tips:

- You can use a head torch or attach a torch to a wrist strap with velcro, so your child can join in if holding a torch is inaccessible
- You can bring the shadows closer to your child using a white umbrella, or any white fabric or paper that can be held close-up

# At Home Activities

## Loud and Proud

Mirroring vocalisations, or the language your child speaks without words, is an under-rated, powerful way of making them feel important in the world and like their voice is heard. It's a simple technique that can be a really amazing tool to develop confidence and connections.

### Activity:

You can find opportunities throughout the day to mirror vocalisations.

Alternatively, you can make it into a focused activity:

- Start with 5 minutes of sound. This could be an upbeat song or piece of music
- When this stops, it is important you stay still, and leave a very, very, **very** long pause
- During this, you might find your child start to vocalise. You can start to echo or mirror these sounds as a way of acknowledging and affirming their contribution.

### Top tips:

- Let go of words and resist the urge to narrate what is happening
- Notice when you start to feel awkward and take deep breaths, reminding yourself that it's always good to leave longer for processing than what feels socially acceptable



# At Home Activities

## Sensory Walks

### Activity:

- Go on a walk, or wheel, in nature, where you don't talk
- Instead, try to focus on your sensations. What do you smell, feel, hear and see around you as you wander?
- See if you can let your senses guide you, rather than sticking to the path
- When you, or your child, notices something interesting, like a bright flower or leaf, pause to really get the best view and take this in before you carry on



### Top tips:

- This simple shift of focus can transform a mundane activity into a really special and beautiful time to share with your child or class
- It's important that you are very strict about the adults not talking (unless for safety reasons), and slowing down so you can really notice your own sensations, as well as the things your child seems to be responding to
- Going on regular sensory walks can have a great impact on the wellbeing and regulation of both the adult and child

# We'd love to know what you thought

Thank you so much for coming to  
**When the World Turns**

Our mission is **equal access to the arts** for everyone. By completing a short survey, you are supporting our work to deliver high-quality, inclusive theatre experiences, and make change across the cultural sector.

Your honest feedback about the show will help us understand what works and what could be different. We'll take all that on board when we're making future shows, so that they're as accessible, joyful and magical as possible.



**Scan the QR code  
to access the survey**

By sharing your experience, we can also capture how our work is impacting audiences. We can use this to evidence the value of Sensory Theatre to funders and programmers.

An Oily Cart (UK) & Polyglot Theatre (AUS) collaboration

# When the World Turns

Director

**Rhiannon Armstrong**

Original Co-Directors

**Ellie Griffiths & Sue Giles**

Designer and Eco-scenographer

**Andrea Carr**

Original Design Concept

**Dr Tanja Beer**

Composer and Musical Director

**Max Reinhardt**

UK Performing & Devising Team

**Nisha Anil**

**Kim Heron**

**Ed Yelland**

Sound Designers

**Max Reinhardt (UK)**

**Steph O'Hara (AUS)**

Assistant Sound Designer /

Multi Channel Programmer

**PJ Davy**

Lighting Designer

**Marty Langthorne**

Original Lighting Design Concept

**Richard Vabre**

Movement Director

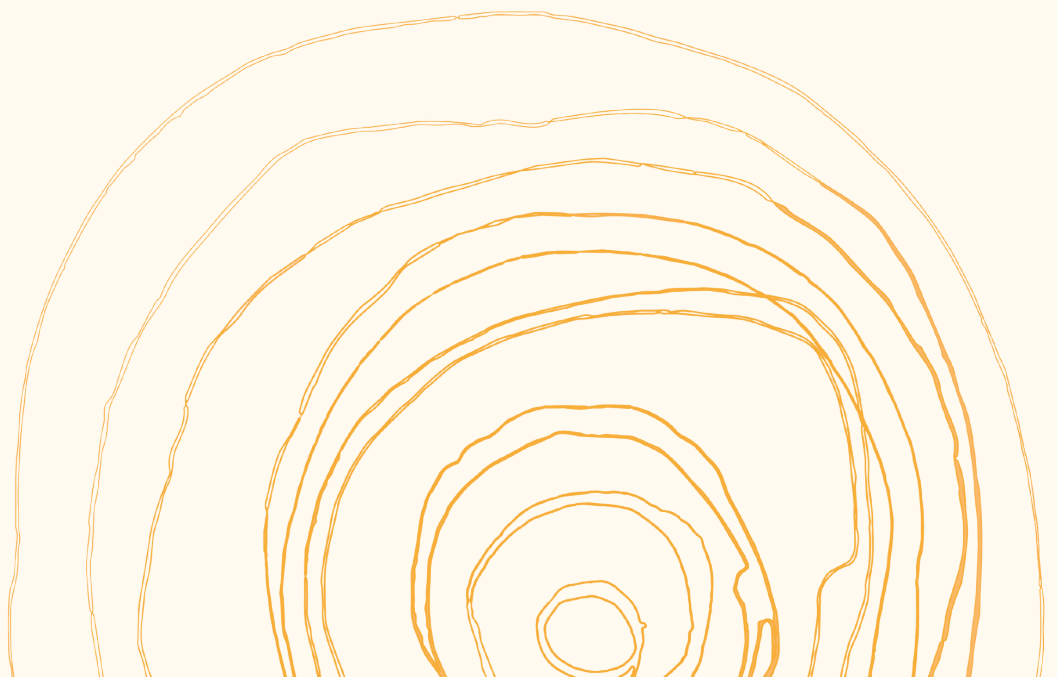
**Genevieve Say**

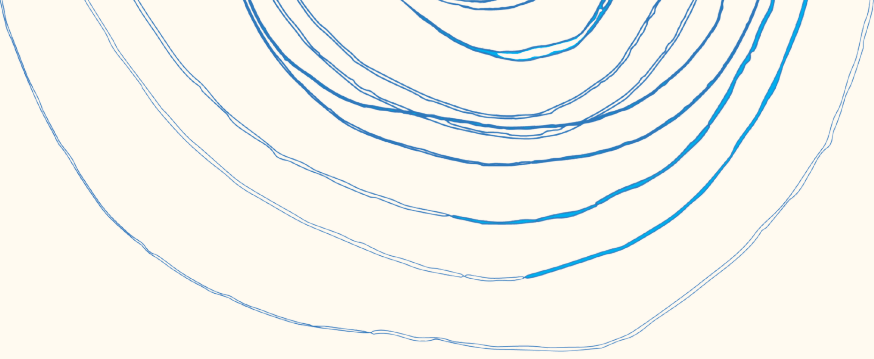
Puppetry Director

**Steve Tiplady**

Dramaturg

**Naomi O'Kelly**





Musicians on soundtrack: **Bruno Guastalla (cello & loutar), Lauren Spicely (violin), Max Reinhardt (keyboards), Jo-anne Cox (cello), Kyllah Dyer (cello)**

Plus samples of **Rhodri Davies** on harp from his album *Dwa Dni*  
Real sound recordings of **birds, animals, insects, trees, leaves, undergrowth, wind, rain; including field recordings made by Mike Challis**

Soundtrack mixed and recorded by **Max Reinhardt** with recordings of **the live musicians by Christopher Jarman, Nicholas O'Brien and Max**

Company Stage Manager

**Laide Sonola**

Technical Stage Manager

**Amirul Azmi**

Production Manager/Company Stage Manager Cover

**Bea Galloway**

Crew

**Amirul Azmi, Brent Tan**

Set Construction

**Tadeusz McCarthy Budzyhski**

Carpenters

**Aubrey Dor & Alice Friend**

Costume & Textile Props Makers

**Caroline Ip & Malgorzata Walasek**

Specialist Props / Set Items Maker

**Eyal Edelman**

Touch Map and Puppet Maker

**Amy Nicholson**

Murmuration Puppet Maker

**Helen Ainsworth**

Assistant Maker for Touch Maps

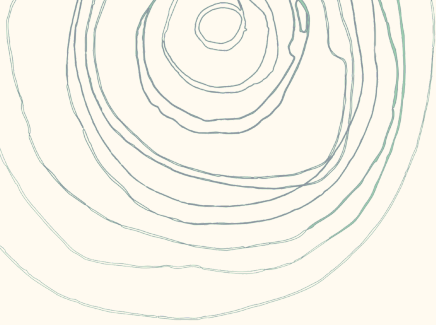
**Charlotte Ball**

Props & Shelters Maker

**Paula Hopkins**

Aromatherapist

**Stephen Smallwood**



Artistic Director & Joint CEO  
Executive Director & Joint CEO

Tour Producer

Communications and Advocacy Officer

Access and Wellbeing Officer

Development Officer

Administrator

Placement

Graphic Design

Photography

Filmmaker

PR

**Ellie Griffiths**

**Zoë Lally**

**Alison Garratt**

**Flossie Waite**

**Maka Marambio de la Fuente**

**Zhaolin Zhou**

**Romica Sharma**

**Nuria Cano Lorente**

**Valerie Reid**

**Suzi Corker, Roswitha Chesher**

**Paul Williams, Roswitha Chesher**

**Binita Walia, The Space inBetween**

With thanks to the staff and students of **Beatrice Tate School** and **Stephen Hawking School**.

Thanks to everyone whose voices appear in **When the World Turns**:  
students from **Linden Lodge School**.

*The UK version of **When the World Turns** is based on an original concept created by Oily Cart and Polyglot Theatre in Australia.*

*Full credits for the original creative team are available at:*

*[www.oilycart.org.uk](http://www.oilycart.org.uk)*



## **Oily Cart (UK)**

For over 40 years, Oily Cart has been creating remarkable, accessible shows that connect with babies, children and young people, and their families. In this time we have pioneered a whole new artform: Sensory Theatre. By pushing theatre beyond words – using not just 5, but all 33 senses – we create immersive wonderlands that never tell children how they should watch theatre, but learn from them what theatre should be.

An Oily Cart show can happen in your local theatre, hydrotherapy pool or school hall; on a trampoline or online; at home or even up in the air. Each sensory experience is a space to be who you are and to be together: the magic happens somewhere between us. We collaborate with disabled and non-disabled artists of all ages, always considering those who experience the most barriers first. With each show, we fight for a world where theatre welcomes everyone.

**[oilycart.org.uk](http://oilycart.org.uk)**

## **Polyglot Theatre (AUS)**

Polyglot Theatre is a globally renowned company based in Melbourne that creates, produces and tours Theatre for Young Audiences (TYA) all over the world. Polyglot's artistic approach of child-centred practice has earned our reputation at home and internationally as a leader in the TYA sector, celebrated for creating distinctive, collaborative works that are playful and conceptually robust. We involve kids from creative development through to immersive performances; and reach the broadest range of children by placing our work everywhere from the world's most prestigious theatres to the football grounds of regional Australia.

**[polyglot.org.au](http://polyglot.org.au)**

# Acknowledgments

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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**When the World Turns**, a collaboration between Oily Cart (UK) and Polyglot Theatre (AUS), was originally commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne for major arts and disability festival Alter State 2022. The development and premiere was supported by the UK/Australia Season Patrons Board, the British Council and the Australian Government as part of the UK/Australia Season, with further support from the Cassandra Gantner Foundation, State Trustees Australia Foundation, the Jennifer Prescott Family Foundation, the Marian and E.H. Flack Trust, ArtPlay, Arts Council England and ecoDynamics.

## FOUNDATION PARTNERS



## STRATEGIC PARTNER



## PROJECT PARTNERS



Proudly supported by  
ANNE AND MARK ROBERTSON OAM  
THE PRESCOTT FAMILY FOUNDATION  
THE SCOBIE AND CLAIRE MACKINNON TRUST  
THE MARIAN AND E.H. FLACK TRUST







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**phf** Paul Hamlyn  
Foundation



**COCKAYNE**



When the World Turns was originally commissioned by Arts Centre Melbourne for major arts and disability festival Alter State.  
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