

# THE ART OF US THEATRETTE

## *The AirDancer*

Directed by Aaron Corn & Anthea Skinner

Starring Melinda Smith, Alon Ilisar, Libby Price and Anthea Skinner

A reflection on the creation and development of 'The AirDancer' a dance piece performed by Melinda Smith and composed by Smith and Alon Ilisar. The team discuss the development and adaptation of the AirSticks, a new musical instrument that enables Smith, who lives with disability, to compose and play her own music while dancing.

## *Purebalm*

Film Scoring by Tracy Chen

A film scoring/sound design project as part of the BMus Interactive Composition program, in response to a provided open source short film.

Without context for the work, I respond to what felt like a person's relationship to water over time, with moments presented intimately, centring the presence of emotion and place over linear clarity. I lean into these narrative ambiguities/emotional subtleties with my sound choices - blurring lines between music and sound effect, diegetic/non-diegetic, detailing with carefully timed pause and glitch. The closing shift allows us to breathe again, holding present time, an acceptance of not knowing, perhaps a gentler surrender to the sea than before.

## *What's It Going To Be?*

Written & directed by Emily Quattrocchi

Five years ago I sustained a spinal cord injury and spent 7 months in hospital learning to live life as a wheelchair user. It opened my eyes to all the possibilities I have in life with my disability. With this film I am discovering yet again what is possible; I directed 'What's It Going To Be?' in that exact same hospital I was a patient, The Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre in Melbourne.

The film tells the story of recently paralysed patient Jack and nurse Rylee helping each other to face their fears. A special moment was when current patients of the spinal ward rolled over to where we were filming to be extras in a hallway shot.

The strongest part of the film is the lead actors' performances when they inhabit the script which shows the close bond a patient develops with someone who has been your nurse for months. Emily who played Nurse Rylee reminded me of my favourite nurse while I was a patient although I can only wish she had snuck me out for burgers.

I hope by audiences watching this film they go on a journey of learning life with a disability is full of possibilities, just as I did when I was a patient at that hospital.

The whole experience was surreal and I couldn't help but think, the younger me would be amazed knowing she would be back rolling through these hospital halls directing a film.

# MELBOURNE RECITAL CENTRE