

Spike

Little Wing Puppets



THE PERFORMANCE

Spike is the story of an echidna, stolen from his nest by a greedy rat. He hatches from his egg far away from home. A young girl finds him. She is playing alone in the bush because she is being bullied by other children.

He has no spikes yet and she doesn't know what kind of animal he is. She tries to work out where he comes from, but accidentally puts him in dangerous situations – in the nest of a crocodile, an emu and a turtle. He feels frightened, rejected, alone. As the story unfolds, she helps him to discover where he belongs, and he helps her to find her own "spikes" and stand up to the bullies.

Told with shadow and hand puppetry, *Spike* is an interactive experience for the audience. It is entertaining and fun, as well as a catalyst for a discussion about difference and belonging. It also has an environmental theme, being about the unique biology of Australian animals, especially the egg-laying echidna. After the performance there is a demonstration of shadow puppetry techniques, introducing children to an expressive hands-on story-telling medium that is highly accessible to young people.

THE PERFORMER

Jenny Ellis has been a puppeteer for over fifteen years. She has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Puppetry from the VCA; received a fellowship to research contemporary puppetry in Europe; was a Researcher for the NSW Minister for Education, and has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Education.

As Artistic Director of Company Gongoma, their show *The Mermaid's Daughter* won the Melbourne Fringe Festival Award for *The Best School Holiday Program*. Jenny's performances have been enjoyed by over 40,000 kindergarten and primary school students in every state and territory of Australia.

Spike was written in collaboration with acclaimed author **Anne Brooksbank**, whose work was shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award for Children's Books 2012, & created under the mentorship of **Richard Bradshaw** (OAM).

Directed by Jacob Williams & Clare Batholomew.

Puppets, Lights and Sets by Jenny Ellis, Lauren Redpath,

Freya Pitt & Nick Wollan

Music by Mal Webb



Recommended age: Prep – Year 4

Cost: \$5.00 per student +GST

Minimum audience: 100 students per session

Show duration: 60 minutes including Q&A time

Set up time: 90 minutes Pack up time: 60 minutes

Note: Due to the nature of shadow puppetry, the venue needs to be darkened.

Check out the video on Vimeo!

<https://vimeo.com/120425914>

BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:



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