

**Title: Terror Australis (sound design)**

**Creator: Kenneth Lyons**

**Year: 2016**



## **Research Background**

'Terror Australis' (staged earlier as 'Pulpshow') is a live art performance devised and performed by Leah Shelton that critiques Australian popular culture, histories and national identity. 'Terror Australis' uses accessible theatrical forms such as comedy, cabaret and burlesque and via subtext and subversion re-enacts and re-presents 'Ozploitation' filmic clichés and cultural stereotypes. This format invites audiences to laugh at iconic cultural tropes while also considering why there is humour in these and why such clichés are celebrated.

## **Research Contribution**

Though the work draws its key themes from Australian popular culture and media, its presentation also interrogates a range of contemporary socio-cultural issues faced globally as societies attempt to write new narratives around 'the other'. From a performance-making perspective, it extends collaborative performance practice by drawing on production theories from speculative fiction, schizophonia (Schafer, R. Murray, 1969) and hauntology (Derrida, J. 1993 and & Fisher, M. 2004) to inform its creative development, construction of narrative, sound design and theatrical presentation.

## **Research Significance**

A significance of this research is in its investigation of alternative methodologies for performance making, narrative construction and social critique. Its value is attested to by the following indicators: selected for seasons at the Cairns Fringe Festival (2016), Melbourne Fringe (2016), Brisbane Powerhouse (2016), Melbourne Provoaré Festival (2017), Brighton UK Fringe (2017), Darwin Fringe (2017), Perth Fringeworld (2018) and selected for showcase at the 2018 Australian Performing Arts Market in Brisbane. It has been awarded the 2016 Matilda Award (Best Set Design) and 2017 Darwin Fringe (Best Cabaret). Other industry nominations include: 2016 Melbourne Fringe (Performance), 2016 Green Room (Contemporary Performer) and 2016 Matilda Award nominations for Best Costume Design, Best Cabaret and Best AV Design. The production also attracted significant attention from media receiving favourable print, online and radio reviews.