

Title: Pulpshow (sound design)

Creator: Kenneth Lyons

Year: 2015



Research Background

'Pulpshow' (re-staged later as 'Terror Australis') is a live art performance devised and performed by Leah Shelton that critiques Australian popular culture, histories and national identity. Pulpshow uses accessible theatrical forms such as comedy, cabaret, 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 the Wonderland Festival 2015 at Brisbane Powerhouse; supported by an Adelaide Fringe Cultural Fund Artist Development Grant (\$5000); selected for the 2016 Adelaide Fringe Festival; awarded the 2016 John Chataway Innovation Award (Adelaide Fringe), The Adelaide Advertisers Hitlist Best Cabaret Award. The production also attracted significant attention from media receiving favourable print, online and radio reviews.